

GENERAL HOSPITAL—RADIUM DEPARTMENT—PROVISION OF WATER TAPS

73. Mrs. Thankamma N. Menon (*Ernakulam-Women*): Will Government be pleased to state whether the Radium Department of the General Hospital, Ernakulam, is provided with water taps?

Dr. T. Verghese (*Chief Medical Officer*): The bath rooms and lavatory recently constructed in the Radium Department are not provided with water taps.

GENERAL HOSPITAL—CHARGES FOR OPERATIONS

74. Mrs. Thankamma N. Menon (*Ernakulam-Women*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

- (a) whether there are fixed charges for various operations conducted in the General Hospital, Ernakulam;
- (b) if the answer is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to place on the table a list of those charges?

Dr. T. Verghese (*Chief Medical Officer*):

- (a) Yes.
- (b) A list is placed on the Council table.

TUBERCULOSIS SPECIALIST—TRAINING OF ONE FROM SERVICE

75. Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

- (a) when the period for which the Tuberculosis Specialist has been entertained in service expires;
- (b) whether they intend to send up for training to Madanapalle one from the service to take up the place of the specialist?

Dr. T. Verghese (*Chief Medical Officer*):

- (a) On 1st January 1942.
- (b) Yes.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET—(cont.)

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*): Sir, while it is a matter of complacency that during the past three years and in the coming year we are going to have surpluses, it should at the same time be remembered that creating a surplus in the State finance is an easy thing; because when your income is Rs. 1,000 this year and when the budgetted expenditure is Rs. 999 you have a surplus. But that

is not the main point, Sir, from which we should look at the State Finances. The essential principles, in my opinion, underlying the drawing up of the budget of the State should be in the first place, as regards income, to see that the taxes do not sit heavily upon the people and to their detriment. Secondly to see that sufficient money is allocated for expenditure for keeping up the efficiency of the State as well as the people. Looked at from both these stand-points I should say that I was oppressed by a sense of disappointment when I went through the budget. In the first place there are two major items of revenue, the collection of which sits very tightly upon the people. I am referring to the land tax on the paddy fields and the Excise revenue. While the maximum income a farmer can derive from a para of paddy field is not more than 8 paras of paddy, that is about Rs. 4, we are imposing a tax of a rupee on a para of paddy field—I am speaking of an average. It means that you are collecting 25 per cent of the income from the paddy fields, while from a person who is getting an income of 2,000 rupees we are collecting only 4 pies in the rupee which is only somewhere about 1/50th in the rupee.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): Increase it.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters): Yes, increase it, if necessary. But I say it is inequitable, it is hard and it is rather oppressive to the paddy cultivator to collect as high as 25 per cent from him, making absolutely no allowance for the labour which he is putting into the soil. You are talking everywhere of the Government's help to the agriculturists. Every councillor comes here and speaks of the agriculturists in very eloquent terms and this remains the final result that the tax sits heavily upon him and the returns left to him for his labour are most inadequate. We have heard the speech of the Hon'ble President. He spoke about the encouragement to be given to the paddy cultivators. This is the first encouragement that the paddy cultivator is getting, that 25 per cent of his income is being collected by Government while from the people who are getting incomes over Rs. 2,000 Government are collecting only 4 pies in the rupee. I think this is inequitable in the extreme and it is high time that this tainted revenue is not collected. If it is the plea of the Government that we cannot raise the revenue we get from paddy fields from other sources—I do not think that the paddy fields alone will yield more than two or three lakhs of rupees—I should reply by saying, raise the income-tax from 4 pies to 6 pies and you will get about 4 lakhs. Our income-tax is already over 7 lakhs and by raising the rate to 6 pies in the rupee you get another 3 or 4 lakhs which is enough to meet the loss of revenue from paddy fields.

We have to remember another thing in this connection. We are exempting all incomes below Rs. 2,000 from income-tax. Mind you, the ordinary agriculturists are mainly holders of only about 4 or 5 paras of paddy field. The maximum income per head will never be more than Rs. 20 or 25 per annum. What is the exemption you are giving to these agriculturists? You are not giving him any exemption at all. Give them exemption up to Rs. 500. Give him exemption of at least Rs. 10 per mensem so that he may live. An average family consists of 5 souls, and if that be so, give Rs. 2 at least per head. Therefore I say firstly the taxation on agriculture is oppressive, excessive and destructive to the farmer in general.

Secondly, I pass on to another item of revenue which again is oppressive. I refer to the income from abkari and ganja. We are now collecting 9½ lakhs of rupees under these items. I say that most of this 9½ lakhs of rupees comes again from the poor agriculturists. When toddy is not worth even three pies per bottle Government comes and station contractors and say "Pay 0—2—3 per bottle to the Government". The total amount collected under this head, namely Rs. 9,50,000 is an additional impost upon the people. It is high time that that revenue also is cut down and that the agriculturist who pays most of the tax in that respect is allowed to escape from the impost of the tax. These are the two items of income which ought not to find a place in our budget. After all, it seems to me that it may not exceed Rs. 10 lakhs or 12 lakhs. It is not difficult as is seen from the budget to find income to the extent of Rs. 10 lakhs. As I said, in one respect alone you can find Rs. 10 lakhs. That is by raising the income-tax by reducing the exemption limit.

I will pass on and consider the budget from the other aspects as to what has been provided for the nation building departments. The first figure that comes into my mind is a glorious sum of Rs. 41,500 which has been provided for original irrigation works which is equitably spread over 7 Taluks. That is 287 villages, at the rate of Rs. 15 per village. That is the figure we find has been allotted to each village when we are talking about platitudes about helping the agriculturists to the tune of Rs. 41,500.

Mr. President: Is Rs. 15 per village the correct figure?

Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters): It may be Rs. 150. But Rs. 150 per village, I think, will be hopelessly insufficient especially when we see the needs of the various villages brought forward in innumerable cut motions tabled here. Now when we consider the expenditure side, as I said, the basic principle ought to be the giving of sufficient for keeping up the efficiency of the people and for the

progress of the State. What are our needs first? The main needs of the village are three. The prime need I should say is, air which of course every body in every village has got in plenty and we need not pay to Government on that account. Otherwise I do not know whether we will even get sufficient of it. The second is water. That also we get in plenty except in the littoral tracts. The third is food. I dare say that half of Cochin is going half-starved and I should say that 25 % of Cochin are going starving. That is a fact which stands naked before our eyes. I, as a man coming from the rural parts, who am in contact with the rural population six days in the week, dwelling with them, working with them, knowing their needs and requirements, assert before this House that not less than 25 % of our people are going starving and that not less than 50 per cent of our people are going half-starved. If that be the position what is our first need? What is the crying need? It is to provide two round meals to every man, to every woman and to every child in the State. I am told that in England the consumption of milk is 35 ounces per head whereas in Cochin State, I dare say, it is not even one ounce per head. It is not even one ounce of rice water, if I may say so. If that be the position what is our chief requirement in Cochin today? Food, food and more food and more food!! What are we doing and how much rice are we getting here? Some vague statistics, we have not got correct statistics here, say that we are not producing rice to meet our requirements for five months in the year. And during the last war when Burma rice was not coming in plenty as it used to come later I have seen the price of rice going up to Rs. 23 per bag and even then rice was not available. A man worth about Rs. 30,000 resorted to dacoity to get a bag of rice and there arose a case in the Anjikaiml Sessions Court out of it.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (Chalakkudi): Is it not *sub-judice*?

Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters): What do you know about *sub-judice*? You know the meaning of either "sub" or "judice". It is a case which was disposed of long ago. What do you know about *sub-judice*?

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (Chalakkudi): You said there is a case.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters): This was a case in which one Girvasis was involved 20 years ago. Though he was worth Rs. 30,000 on account of the difficulty to get a bag of rice he had to commit dacoity. He was caught, convicted and imprisoned. The rice was eaten, the man is dead and the case is also over. My friend says it is *sub-judice*! (Laughter)

Now my point is, have you got enough rice to feed us here. There are only vague statistics which say that we produce rice to feed only for 5 months in the year. Where will you go and what will you do for the next 7 months? If Japan conquers Indo-China our supply from that source will be cut off. Supply from Indo-China may be lost to us. Siam may be lost to us. May I ask this question, where is our rice coming from? Where are the ships? Does Cochin possess a single ship to bring us food? If there is shortage of rice what is going to happen to us? Therefore, it is an accepted principle and a very sound principle that in the matter of food there should be self-sufficiency established.

Whatever the *Madras Mail* or the *Hindu* may say—the *Madras Mail* in its leader yesterday stated that self-sufficiency is not a plea which should be raised—what I say is the greatest need of mankind is self-sufficiency in the matter of food-stuffs. This is a matter for which we should try our very best. What have we done now to have this self-sufficiency? What have we done to encourage paddy cultivation? So what I say is, encourage paddy cultivation as much as possible; encourage the farmer.

Now, what are the chief burdens of the farmers of Cochin State? First there is the jenmi. The jenmi, I say, collects as good as 50 per cent of the income from the land. What has yet been done till this moment? When poor me brought a Bill for whittling down the renewal fee or spreading it over 12 years the sympathy we got from the Government was derision, if I may say so. What is the position? As good as 50 per cent of the produce of the land goes to the jenmi. What does the jenmi give back for the 50 per cent? Nothing except oppression, except feudalism in its darkest form. The tenant cannot stand before him, the tenant should not walk before him, the tenant cannot say "I" about himself. He should say something else. That is what the jenmi gives. That is the first oppression. What has been done about this? I say boldness is required. A conservative budget is not the only thing that we want. In fact it is the last thing that should be resorted to in times like this. The cry of the agriculturist is rising that his condition is unbearable. What is to be done? What has been done? Buy up the jenm right as has been done in Ireland. If you cannot do it all over the State do it at least in one taluk or at least in one village. Buy up the jenm right and give it to the tenant and collect the necessary money in annual instalments spread over 20, 30 or 40 years. Remove all middle men from agriculture. It is not enough to say we are encouraging paddy cultivation. In fact are you encouraging paddy cultivation? The first thing to be done is to remove middle men in agriculture. The tenant will never feel safe

as long as there is a middle man between the Government and the tenant. That is the first thing.

The second thing is reduction of land-tax at least on paddy fields. Reduction, and if necessary complete taking away of all land-tax on paddy fields. That is not a thing which is strange any way. Take Ceylon and Malaya Peninsula for that matter. There is no land tax on free holdings. My brother who is there writes to me so. But any way it is not an unheard of thing. I say so far as paddy fields are concerned remove this impost of land tax.

The third thing is to protect him from petty pilfering Government officers who are an oppression. I should say that the Government should try to instil into the minds of the subordinate public servants the feeling that they are the servants and not the masters and the oppressors of the people. I am referring in particular to the underlings in the Police Department and in the Revenue Department. I venture to say that they are far from being a help to the people. Everything should be done to see that the tenantry or that the farmers are not troubled by the subordinate officers in service. I am referring to corruption. The Government should see that not even a single pie is collected as *mamool* or present or as gratification by any servant in the State from the poor fellow who cannot find enough to feed his children who are crying in the morning for *kanji* water and more *kanji* water.

Fourthly, I say, enable the farmer to raise more produce from the land. It is a phenomenon widely seen in Cochin that the yield from the land is going down every day, the cost of manure is increasing and the cost of labour also is increasing. Therefore, the farmer is now between the devil and the deep sea—oppression from one side and more and more corroding demands for manure, for labour and the difficulty of paying land tax on the other. If you want to save the farmer that should be the fourth direction in which every effort should be made. And the first thing in that fourth direction would be irrigation. The Government should see that not a drop of water flowing down the hills should be allowed to reach the sea without our permission, without it being properly utilised for irrigation or for giving us more power. Let all the rivers that flow from the Western Ghats be bridled and used properly. This is a direction in which money should be spent—not for huge salaries, not for huge leave allowances and car allowances, but to help the poor agriculturists without whom your land revenue would not be obtained, your excise revenue will not be available, your stamp revenue will never be collected and even the college fees you will not get, because it is a fact that 99 per cent of our income comes from the agriculturists. No merchant will thrive in Cochin if there is no

agriculturist to buy his goods, nobody for that matter would thrive in any state if the agriculturists did not work. Therefore, I say, help the agriculturists in all these directions. Thereon depends the future of Cochin.

Another direction is this: It is impossible to conceive of Cochin feeding 15 lakhs of people as disclosed by the last census by agriculture alone. It is necessary to find work for those who cannot be accommodated on land, in industries. What is being done for industries? Nothing. What has the Government done in the past few years except the Cochin Textiles? There might be a lot of controversy about it. But it is the only welcome thing that Cochin has obtained in the last two or three years. It is feeding hundreds of coolies today. We want industries like that to be developed to provide work and wages to those who cannot find sufficient remuneration from their lands. And a direction in which an industry can be developed for the good of the people is the planting industry. The land is here. The labour is here. Thanks to the pioneering work of the Europeans for the last 70 years and more the heights of the Nelliampathis have been made accessible and open for cultivation, and some among the enterprising people in the State have taken to it. Thanks to the Europeans I say the planting industry has developed to some extent. I do not think that the Government is to be thanked because the help that has been given to the planting industry has been very small. The development of the planting industry does not mean additional machinery. The labour is here. The land is here. The only thing to be done is to connect the land and the labour and make production. The first thing that has to be done is to make these places healthy. The chief pest in these places is malaria. The first direction in which the Government ought to move is to do any amount of anti-malarial work. Valparai on the Annamalais which I visited and which was once having 100 per cent malaria is, I am told, not now having even 10 per cent malaria. To me it appears that Valparai is more healthy than many parts of the Cochin State. If Valparai on the Annamalais could be freed from Malaria I don't know why Nelliampathis, Varandarappilli, Puthukad or Elanad could not be freed of malaria. Therefore, the first direction in which the planting industry could be helped is by taking strong measures for the removal of malaria. The second direction is free grant of land, if I may say so, and if not, grant of land on concession rates.

These, hon'ble members, are some of the directions in which I think our Cochin can increase its prosperity, can feed its teeming lakhs and bring down happiness amongst our people. I think I

have done this without malice to any. If criticisms have come, those criticisms have come from a sincere feeling that I, as a representative of a section of His Highness' subjects, am bound to state them before this House. It is in that feeling that I have stated these before the House. I would feel gratified if at least some impression is made on the minds of our representatives here that these are directions in which work ought to be done for the betterment of our people.

***Mr. P. Achyuta Menon (Kattur):** Mr. President, Sir, I am one among the various representatives here who used to attack the budget every time when it came before the House. This time with very great joy and with full of hope for the better prosperity of the people of Cochin, I welcome the budget presented before the House by the Hon'ble Finance Member. Sir, for the past very many years we were thinking what will give real prosperity and happiness to the poor peasants of Cochin. We were watching to see how far the costly rural development schemes and the very costly machinery set up some three years ago are going to give relief to the poor people of Cochin State. With very great sorrow we have found that it has proved a failure. It has not gone one step further to ameliorate the condition of the masses. On the other hand it has done outstanding harm to the people of the State in that it has swallowed much money which would have been profitably spent on other matters. This year, Sir, we find a much better step taken in the budget presented before us. Sir, some three years ago, the first day on which I entered this Council hall, I began to voice my own opinion that it is only by providing irrigation facilities that Cochin can be saved from destruction and failure of crops. Our benevolent Government was also thinking what they should do in the matter. All these years they were only thinking and nothing came out of it. Sir, thought which does not lead to action is an abortion, a treachery, as Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru aptly put it. This year we have the consolation that the thought of the Government and the thoughts of the representatives of the people have taken some definite shape towards irrigation, and that, though not a very big amount, at least Rs. 41,500 has been budgetted for minor irrigation works. I am really happy to see this first step in the direction and I welcome the budget in the fervent hope that in the years to come this step will be very advantageously followed by Government and that more and more money will be earmarked for this purpose.

I wish to add one word as regards my constituency which

* Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.

extends from the sea to the mountains. A portion of my constituency—Pallivattam—which happens to be a poor village lies always receiving the blows of the raging sea adjacent and Madaikonam is a very hilly place on the northern side receiving the kicks of the large mountains. To that constituency I have to invite the attention of Government. I take this opportunity to remind the Hon'ble Member for Public Works about the miserable condition of the Karuvannur bund which I think he will seriously consider and which I am sure has caused him some amount of anxiety. During the rainy season the whole of Moorkanad and Karanchira happened to be a huge sea and it is with the help of a large number of boats and with the help of a large number of people day and night that no human lives were lost.

Now, turning to the nation-building departments, Sir, I find from the revised estimate of 1116 that the money spent on the Veterinary Department is Rs. 40,100, but it has been reduced to Rs. 39,000 for the next year. I do not know how it happened. This is not a happy procedure anyhow from the point of view of a progressive government.

Sir, I have to add one more word with regard to cyclone relief. Large sums of money have been already distributed by Government by way of free grants to the deserving poor, and I am sure that they are going to disburse more sums to help the people by granting them loans, interest-free and otherwise. In this connection I wish to invite the attention of the Public Works Department to the fact that they should embark upon schemes of public works already sanctioned in particular areas to give relief to the starving villagers by way of additional help. I want to bring to the notice of that department the case of a road in my constituency which the Chief Engineer had promised will be taken up in 1116 itself. I refer to the Kattur-Kakkathuruthi road. I request that this road may be taken up immediately as it will be real relief to the people who have already received hard blows.

***Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (Cheruthuruthi):** Permit me, Sir, to offer to you my felicitations on your being lifted to the post of the President of this House. It is accompanied by a regret also that you are not the Diwan too, in the sense that you can lay out a policy for the State, in the sense that you are responsible for the administration of the State.

*Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member,

Whatever that be, this is an opportunity given to us for laying before the Government the conditions obtaining in the country, and I propose to use this occasion for that purpose rather than bringing to the notice of the Government various local complaints that I might have. The first and foremost thing that comes to my mind is the rather disturbed atmosphere that we find in the whole State on account of the delay in the appointment of the Diwan.

Mr. President : Mr. Warriar, in regard to that matter, I wish to point out that you might have either to comment upon the conduct of His Highness or refer to the conduct of the Paramount Power, both of which are prohibited. Can you avoid it?

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (Cheruthuruthi): I shall try to avoid that.

Mr. President : It is embarrassing, if not dangerous ground.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (Cheruthuruthi): I only wish to bring to the notice of the Government the absence of a link, a very important link for the general administration of the State. I do not propose to say or try to gauge, as many others did, the reasons therefor. I shall try to avoid it. But I only wish to submit that it is not conducive to the good administration of the country. To leave mischief-mongers to have their own speculations is not at all conducive to the ordered administration of the State. Sir, I shall leave it at that without elaborating it further and go on to other aspects—the condition of the people, politically, economically and socially.

Sir, so far as the political condition of the people are concerned, I wish to bring to the notice of the Government that the people are not enjoying the same kind of freedom which people living in a democratic country should enjoy. I may at first refer to the freedom of the person, and the restraint that is put upon the people. Here, for the first time in the history of the State, we find persons are imprisoned without a trial. That is a very bad state of affairs. Whatever be the justification for other countries to take measures of that kind, I wish to submit, Sir, that our people are so law-abiding that there is absolutely no necessity for the State to refuse trial for a person before his freedom is taken away from him. Sir, there have been cases of the restriction of the freedom of movement of the subjects of His Highness in the State itself which I am glad to submit has been removed very recently.

I will now come to the question of freedom of speech. That is another valuable right which the subjects of His Highness enjoy. The large number of people now in prison—I mean the political prisoners—indicate to me that the subjects of the State do not enjoy

freedom of speech. They are there for the free expression they gave to their views in a most law-abiding manner.

I then come to the other aspect before I leave the political condition of the people, *i.e.* the freedom of the press. I wish to submit that the press has not got all freedom here. The Newspapers Act hangs like a Damocles' sword upon the head of every pressman. The House has tried on various occasions to repeal this most obnoxious piece of legislation. I say without any disparagement to many of the papers, which have been conducted in a proper manner, that this licensing of the press has been used as a matter of fact by some people as a license to praise the Government and the powers that be and to abuse those who differ from the Government. I do not mean anything against the press in general. But I say the result had been this, and I am sure the Government themselves will admit that it has in a way begun to recoil upon themselves. The license which the Government themselves have given to certain papers, I understand, has been made use of by those papers here to abuse some of the Heads of Departments, and they must have begun to feel the pinch of it. That I submit is a very bad state of affairs; particularly when it affects the Head of a Department. I do not understand when I am on that subject, why the Government is so complacently sitting idle on that matter. When a department in whose hands rests the peace and tranquility of the country—when the head of that department is attacked not once, not twice, but thrice and some times.....

Mr. T. K. Nayar (*Pazhayannur*): Thousands of times.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (*Cheruthuruthi*):.....I do not know why the Government sits quiet.

Mr. T. K. Nayar (*Pazhayannur*): It is a shame.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (*Cheruthuruthi*): I cannot understand how the Government can sit quiet when such a capable officer in the State, an officer who had a reputation of being one of the ablest not only here but also in British India and who has established a very high standard of integrity and honesty in the administration of the department, has been accused of offences which a decent man would not do. I say this is the freedom with which the licence is abused by the press. I say, take away that license altogether. Let honest people come forward to conduct Journalism in an honest way. Give them an opportunity.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): Without interruption, do you criticise the publication of that matter in the press?

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (Cheruthuruthi): No, I do not do that. What I am pleading for is that the Act should be repealed, and the public should be protected, so that honest journalism may come forward in the State unhampered by the powers that be.

Sir, these are some of the disabilities which the public are labouring under. I will then go on, Sir, with your permission to the economic condition of the people. The appalling poverty of the masses has been brought to the notice of this Council by various speakers who spoke before me. Even today there has been a reference to that subject. I do not know whether the Government or the public have really understood where we stand. Ours is the most thickly populated country in the whole world. I understand the population per square mile is about 1,500 persons, and that of occupied areas about 1,000 per square mile. On making a rough calculation, I find that the average holding that a man can possess in the State does not work out to more than $\frac{2}{5}$ of an acre in the occupied areas including roads, homesteads and other places. Under such circumstances, we find that a very grave situation faces us which the Government have to tackle boldly. The population is increasing by leaps and bounds. There was an increase of about 25 per cent during the Census of 1931 and about 18 per cent during the recent Census. It is not possible to increase the land under cultivation that is at our disposal. What shall we do then for our people? How can they get on? I find from the answers given on the floor of this House—I have asked for the latest figures which have not yet been furnished to me—that the paddy produced in the State will be sufficient to feed us only for about three or four months. That must have been lessened by now because of the increased population. We find ourselves in a position where we have to find food for nine months in the year. In addition to the difficulties of getting paddy from outside, we have also to face the difficulty of paying for it. This is the most important difficulty that faces us. What we find everywhere is poverty. We find everywhere emaciated people who are unable to work. So, unless the Government devise measures which will adequately bring plenty to the land, there is absolutely no hope of salvation for the country. There is no use trying to do something here, something there, just as we apply Amrutanjan, so to say, to a man suffering from headache. It gives him only temporary cure. It is high time to think what should be done to solve the problem, and I think that the only constructive solution which the Government can adopt in this matter is to make arrangements for the production of food for the whole country. Whether that is feasible is the question. I say it would be possible, and it must be possible. By a careful, planned,

system of irrigation, by husbanding the rain water that falls in this country, you can bring more land under cultivation. You can raise more crops and improved crops in the land which are already under cultivation by making arrangements for intensified cultivation, by making the Agricultural Department a living institution rather than the one as you find it now, making it work, and by providing for modern methods of cultivation, as was rightly pointed out by my hon'ble friend, the Member for Planters. By increasing the yield of the land, I am sure you can easily find, you will be able to find food for the whole population of the State. In such a case, you will be able to save millions of rupees a year, not one or two lakhs.

In the same way I would suggest as the next most important primary thing the production of your own cloth. Produce your food, produce your cloth. We can thus save a large amount of money going out of the country. I say this is the best time for the Government to think of it. Prices of cloth are rising up. The price of cotton is going down. This is the best time to organise cottage industries, particularly the Khadi industry. When it has been found difficult to get your own clothing in the State, and when the price of cotton is going down, if you organise this cottage industry in the State and if you organise weaving also, it would be easy to save another few lakhs of rupees per year, which will bring plenty, prosperity and happiness to the people of the country. I, therefore, request the Government to seriously consider this question.

Now, coming to irrigation, no doubt you have provided for irrigation, though very little. But if you go carefully through the list of works to be undertaken, you will find there is no irrigation works proper there. You will find only works which tantamount to the maintenance of the existing irrigational facilities. Provision for the construction of groynes and such other works constitute the list, and there is absolutely no provision for any new irrigation works. I know that the Government are in possession of at least ten important major irrigation schemes ready for starting work which have been completely investigated. A list of such schemes has been placed before the House some time back, and if the Government is prepared to spend money—and I am sure they must be prepared to spend money—it will be wisely spent in reproductive works which will bring in more and more money into the State. I say you should not shirk spending money on these projects. You have to take yourself out of the ordinary rut. The increase of population, the increase of poverty in the land, the increase in the number of unemployed and the realisation that you have to look after them,

will give you sufficient courage to take up these schemes which, after all, may not be beyond your means. I know that the time is auspicious for these schemes. His Highness the Maharaja is very sympathetic to the suffering of the poor and the Government also has recognised the importance of it. The financial position of the State is on the whole highly satisfactory. We find there is a surplus of 132 lakhs of rupees as assets. A tenth of it would be sufficient to start them. These are works which ought to be attended to immediately. It should not be delayed a day for want of funds, and it is here that the Government have to revise their policy. A Government cannot be conservative if they want to be progressive. Man must have a progressive government. Public finance is different from domestic finance. We should not always look to surpluses. It would be impossible for us to take up schemes involving large profits and advantages to the people without necessarily going in for borrowed capital. The test of public finance is only that it should be spent on reproductive works. It may be that in the early stages it will not be remunerative. But the great service that will be done to the country will compensate for any loss by way of interest. The general improvement of the country and the prosperity of the people will amply repay what little loss you may have to undergo in the shape of interest. It requires very bold policy. I say Government should take courage in both their hands and embark upon these schemes. Government should not delay a day in starting these works.

I wish to add only one more word in regard to the reforms. Good government is not a substitute for self-government. It is an old saying, repeated probably from thousands of platforms, but every time it is repeated, the more forcible it becomes. We want responsible government. Our State wants a constitutional government. The time is ripe for it. We are prepared for it. It is over-ripe and we are given only some crumbs of it. If that is not done and if it is not properly fostered, it will, instead of doing good to the country, may bring ruin to the State. It is in a democratic age that we find ourselves. I say it is time that the Sovereign should share his responsibility with the chosen representatives of the people. The Government has already recognised the principle. They should in practice also give the people more and more powers so that whatever they have got now may be used for the good of the people. Otherwise, it would bring disaster. I, therefore, submit that it is high time that we have a constitutional rule in the State. In this connection I would like to convey my thanks to His Highness for the businesslike message that His Highness was pleased to send to this House, and I would respectfully urge His Highness and respectfully hope

that in the very near future we would have another message giving us more powers. With these few words, I resume my seat.

The House rose for lunch at 1-10 p.m. and reassembled at 2-30 p.m. with the Hon'ble President, in the chair.

*മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ : മിസ്റ്റർ പ്രസിഡണ്ട്, സർ, അടുത്തുണ്ടായ കൊടുക്കാറുകൊണ്ടും വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കംകൊണ്ടും അനവധി സാധുക്കളുടെ വീടുകൾ നശിച്ചുപോയതറിഞ്ഞ് നമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെന്റ് ഉടൻ അല്ലെങ്കിലും അവർ ഒരു സഹായം നൽകിയതിന് ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെന്റിനോടു് നന്ദിപറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളുന്നു. അതോടൊപ്പംതന്നെ ഇനിയും ഒരു രണ്ടു പദ്ധതികൾ കൂടി ഗവണ്മെന്റ് അംഗീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത് ഇതുവരെയും നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്താത്തതിനെപ്പറ്റിയും രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. സൗജന്യം കൊടുക്കൽ കഴിച്ചു് ൫൦ ഉറപ്പിക വരെ വീടുണ്ടാക്കുവാൻവേണ്ടി കടം കൊടുക്കുവാനുള്ള ഒരു പദ്ധതി ഗവണ്മെന്റ് സ്വീകരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. കൃഷിരക്ഷക്കായിട്ടു് ൧൦൦ ക. വരെ കടം കൊടുക്കുവാനുള്ള മറ്റൊരു പദ്ധതിയും ഗവണ്മെന്റ് സ്വീകരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇതിൽ ആദ്യം പറഞ്ഞ ൫൦ ഉറപ്പികയുടെ പദ്ധതിയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ഞാൻ ഇപ്പോൾ ഒന്നു വാദിക്കുന്നില്ല. എന്തെന്നുവെച്ചാൽ അതു് ഒരു കടംകൊടുക്കൽ മാത്രമാണ്. അതിന്നു കറച്ചു സമയം കൊടുത്താലും വൈഷമ്യമുണ്ടെങ്കിലും വലിയ തകരാറില്ല. കാർഷിക രക്ഷക്കുവേണ്ടി ൧൦൦ ഉറപ്പിക കൊടുക്കുവാൻ ഗവണ്മെന്റ് അംഗീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ആ ഒരു സഹായം എന്നാണ് ഗവണ്മെന്റ് ചെയ്യുവാൻപോകുന്നതെന്നു എനിക്കു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. ഈ കടംകുമാസം ൩൦-ാംന-ക്കുള്ളിൽ ൧൦൦ ഉറപ്പിക വരെ സഹായിക്കുവാൻ ഗവണ്മെന്റ് നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു് ചെയ്യാത്തപക്ഷം മേലിൽ ആ സഹായം ചെയ്യുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് കാർഷിക യാതൊരു രക്ഷയുമില്ലെന്നു് ഒരു കൃഷിക്കാരനായ ഞാൻ നിങ്ങളോടു് തുറന്നുപറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളുന്നു. എന്തായാലും ഒരു വിഭവ നഷ്ടംവന്നുപോയി. രണ്ടാമത്തെ വിഭവിനും എന്തെങ്കിലും പ്രയത്നം ചെയ്യണമെന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതിന്നു ഗവണ്മെന്റ് അവരെ ഇപ്പോഴെ സഹായിക്കണം. ഒന്നോ രണ്ടോ മാസം കഴിഞ്ഞു് ആ ൧൦൦ ഉറപ്പിക കിട്ടിയതുകൊണ്ടു് അവർ യാതൊരു പ്രയോജനവുമില്ല. ആ ഒരു കാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെന്റ് പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഇതു് ഗവണ്മെന്റ് അടിയന്തിരമായിചെയ്യേണ്ട ഒരു സംഗതിയാണ്. ഞാൻ ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞതുകൊണ്ടു് ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ അലസതയെപ്പറ്റിയൊ, ഗവണ്മെന്റ് വേണ്ടവിധം ശ്രമിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതായി ആരും തെറ്റിദ്ധരിക്കരുതു്. അതിന്നു പല ചടങ്ങുകളും ഉണ്ടെന്നു് എനിക്കറിയാം. ആ ചടങ്ങുകളെല്ലാം കഴിഞ്ഞു സാധുക്കൾക്കു് അതു കിട്ടുമ്പോഴേക്കു് അവർക്കു് അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഉപകാരമില്ലാതെ വന്നേക്കുമെന്നുള്ള വസ്തുത ഗവണ്മെന്റിനെ ധരിപ്പിക്കേണ്ട ചുമതല എനിക്കുണ്ട്. അതോടുകൂടിതന്നെ മുമ്പു പറഞ്ഞതരത്തിൽ പെടാത്ത മൂന്നാമതൊരുതരം രക്ഷ ജനങ്ങൾക്കാവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്നു ഞാൻ ദിവാൻപേഷ്കാർ അവർകളുടെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ പെടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്റെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിലെ ഒരു സ്ഥിതിമാത്രം ഞാൻ സ്വല്പം പറയാം. പുഴയിലെ വെള്ളം കയറി ഇരുവശങ്ങളിലുമുള്ള ൨൦, ൦൦൦ പറയോളം നെല്ല് പാട്ടം കിട്ടുന്ന വസ്തുക്കൾ മുഴുവൻ മണൽകൊണ്ടു് മൂടി കൃഷി ചെയ്യുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതെ നാശപ്പെട്ടുപോയിരിക്കുന്നു. അവരുടെ ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാർ ഒന്നോ രണ്ടോ പത്തോ നൂറോ ആളുകളല്ല. ആ പുഴയുടെ വക്കു് കെട്ടി അടച്ചല്ലാതെ ആ വസ്തുക്കൾക്കു യാതൊരു രക്ഷയും മേലാൽ ഉണ്ടാകയില്ല. അ

*Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.

തു് ഒന്നോ രണ്ടോ ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാരെക്കൊണ്ടു് ചെയ്യിക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതുമല്ല. അവിടെയുള്ള എല്ലാ കൃഷിയുടമസ്ഥന്മാരും കൂട്ടിച്ചേർന്ന് അതു കെട്ടിയടക്കുക എന്നുള്ളതും അസാദ്ധ്യമാണ്. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് എന്താണു് ചെയ്യുവാനുദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നതെന്നു് എന്നിങ്ങ മനസ്സിലാക്കുന്നില്ല. അതിനും പുറമെ വേറെ ഒരു തകരാറുകൂടിയുണ്ടു്. അഗ്രിക്കൾച്ചറൽ ലോൺ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടാ മെന്നുവെച്ചാൽ അവിടെയുള്ള വസ്തുക്കൾ മിക്കതും പണയപ്പെടുത്തിയവയാണു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ പണത്തിന്റെ കാര്യത്തിൽ ആ വസ്തുക്കളെ ആദ്യ പാർജ്ജാക്കുവാൻ പ്രയാസമാണു്. ൧൦ ൦ ഉറപ്പിക വസ്തുപണയത്തിന്മേൽ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടാൽ മണൽ വീണ വസ്തുക്കളായതുകൊണ്ടു് ൧൦ ൦ ഉറപ്പിക്കുക അതു തീരതരമൊ എന്നാണു് അവർ ചോദിക്കുന്നതു്. പതിനായിരം ഉറപ്പികകൊടുത്തു വസ്തുവാങ്ങി അതിൽ ഒരു മുവ്വായിരം ഉറപ്പികകൂടി ഇറക്കിടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതിൽ മണൽ കയറിയിട്ടുള്ള വസ്തുവായതുകൊണ്ടു് യാതൊരു രക്ഷയുമില്ല. ഈ സംഗതികളെല്ലാം ഞാൻ ദിവാൻപേഷ്കാർ അവർകളുടെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഒരു നിവാരണമുണ്ടാക്കുവാനായി ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് പൂർണ്ണ ശക്തി ഉപയോഗിക്കണമെന്നാണു് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു്. ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിൽ നിന്നും സാധുക്കളെ രക്ഷിക്കുവാൻ പണമിറക്കണമെന്നുദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ഈ വക സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ പ്രത്യേകിച്ചും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണു്. ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിൽ നിന്നും ഇറക്കുന്ന പണം വസ്തുഉടമസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ നിന്നും വസൂലാക്കണം. അതിനു എന്തുതന്നെ നിയമമുണ്ടാക്കിയാലും തരക്കേടില്ല. ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് അത്യാവശ്യമായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ പണമിറക്കുമ്പോൾ വസ്തുക്കൾ മുൻപാർജ്ജ് കിട്ടണമെന്നുള്ള ഒരു വിളംബരം പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തണം. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ വക കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ നിയമതടസ്ഥമുണ്ടെന്നു പറഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടു് ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് നില്ക്കരുതു്. ആരമാസത്തേക്കു മോറട്ടോറിയം അനുവദിച്ചു; എന്നാൽ അതിൽ ഒരു ദിവസം കൂടുവാൻ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു സാധിച്ചില്ല. മനരേമറിച്ച് ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിൽനിന്നു, യാതൊരുപേക്ഷയും ഞങ്ങളിൽനിന്നുണ്ടാകാതെതന്നെ, കുന്നിമാസംവരെ മോറട്ടോറിയം തന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ പണത്തിന്നു മൂന്നുവകാശം നിലനിറുത്തിക്കൊണ്ടു് സാധുക്കളെ രക്ഷിക്കുവാൻ പുറപ്പെടണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിനോടപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. ഈ വക സ്ഥലങ്ങളെല്ലാം ദിവാൻപേഷ്കാർ അവർകൾ നടന്നുപോയി കണ്ടിട്ടുള്ളതാണു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഞാൻ കൂടുതലായിട്ടൊന്നും പറയുന്നില്ല. ഈ ൨൦,൦൦൦ പറ നെല്ല് പാട്ടം കിട്ടുന്ന ഭൂമി വെറും തരിശാക്കിക്കളയാതിരിക്കുവാൻ ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയെ വീണ്ടും ക്ഷണിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. കാരാകൊണ്ടല്ല വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കംകൊണ്ടാണു് ഈ നഷ്ടമുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഈ ബസ്റ്ററിൽ സാധാരണയിൽ കവിഞ്ഞ് ഇറിഗേഷനു് കുറെ സംഖ്യ ചേർത്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള ഒരു വ്യത്യാസമുള്ളതായിട്ടു് ഇതേവരെയുള്ള പ്രസംഗങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും ഞാൻ കേട്ടതിനെപ്പറ്റിയാണു് ഇനിയെന്നിങ്ങ പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. കഴിഞ്ഞ കൊല്ലം ചേർത്തിട്ടുള്ളതിൽ വിശേഷിച്ചു് യാതൊന്നും ഇതിലുള്ളതായി ഞാൻ കാണുന്നില്ല. ഇതിൽ ചേർത്തുകാണുന്നത് പ്രധാനമായ ഒരു ഇറിഗേഷനായി എന്നിങ്ങ തോന്നുന്നുമില്ല. ഇറിഗേഷൻ കൂടുതലായി ആവശ്യമുള്ളതു് നെൽകൃഷി ധാരാളമുള്ള മുകുന്ദപുരം, തലപ്പിള്ളി, ചിറൂർ എന്നീ മൂന്നു താലൂക്കുകളിലാണു്. അവിടെയാണു് കൂടുതൽ പണം ചിലവാക്കേണ്ടതു്. ഞങ്ങളെ ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുത്തുവാനായി വെറുതെ ൧൦,൦൦൦-൦, ൨൦,൦൦൦-൦ ഉറപ്പിക ചേർത്തുകൊണ്ടുമാത്രം കാര്യമില്ല. ഇറിഗേഷനു വേണ്ടിയുള്ള ബോർഡ് ഏല്പെടുത്തണമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞുതുടങ്ങിട്ടു് വളരെക്കാലമായി. ഇപ്പോൾ ഇറിഗേഷനുവേണ്ടി ചിലവാക്കുന്ന പണം ഇന്നത്തെ രീതിയിലുള്ള ബോർഡുകളെ ഇല്ലായ്മചെയ്യുവാൻ ചിലവാക്കി ശരിയായ ഒരു ബോർഡു്

സ്ഥാപിക്കണം. എന്റെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിൽപെട്ടതാണ് ചിരക്കുഴി ഇറിഗേഷൻ സ്കീം. ഇറിഗേഷൻ ബോർഡ് മെമ്പർമാർഅവിടെ വന്നപ്പോൾ അവരെ അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഞങ്ങളെ അതിന്റെ വിവരങ്ങൾ പറഞ്ഞുനന്നുവെച്ചപ്പോൾ അത് കൊള്ളാമെന്നാണ് പറഞ്ഞത്. ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള മെമ്പർമാരെ ഇറിഗേഷൻ ബോർഡിൽ വെച്ചിട്ട് യാതൊരു കാര്യവുമില്ല. ഇറിഗേഷനുവേണ്ടി വല്ലതും ചെയ്യണമെന്ന് ഉദ്ദേശമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ റോഡ് ബോർഡിന്റെ നിലയിൽ ഒരു ഇറിഗേഷൻ ബോർഡ് എപ്പോഴായി കൊല്ലാകൊല്ലം ഇത്ര ഉറപ്പിക വിതം ഇതിനകൊടുക്കണമെന്ന നിശ്ചയിച്ചാലല്ലാതെ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ നിലയിൽ യാതൊന്നും സാധ്യമല്ല. അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്താൽ ൫ കൊല്ലം കൊണ്ടോ ൩ കൊല്ലംകൊണ്ടോ ചെയ്തുതീർക്കാവുന്ന സ്കീം ഉണ്ടാക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കും. ഇപ്പോൾ ഇറിഗേഷനുവേണ്ടി ചേർത്തിട്ടുള്ള സംഖ്യകൊണ്ട് വലുതായ കാര്യമുണ്ടാകുമെന്നു എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. കൃഷിസംബന്ധമായോ വ്യവസായ സംബന്ധമായോ ഈ ബില്ലിൽ കാണുന്ന കണക്കുകളെപ്പറ്റി എനിക്കു യാതൊന്നും പറയുവാനില്ല. ഇത് എനിക്കു ൧൪-ാമത്തെ ബില്ലാണെന്ന്. കണക്കിൽ വലിയ വ്യത്യാസമൊന്നും കണ്ടില്ലെങ്കിലും പുസ്തകത്തിന്റെ ആകൃതിയിൽ മാത്രം ഞാൻ ഒരു വ്യത്യാസം കണ്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ട് അതിലെ കണക്കുകളെപ്പറ്റിയൊന്നും ഞാൻ ഇവിടെ പറയുന്നില്ല. ഇനി ഇൻഡസ്ട്രിയലായിട്ട് നോക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഇന്നു ലോകം മുഴുവൻ ഇൻഡസ്ട്രിയലായിട്ട് ചെയ്യുമ്പോൾ കൊച്ചി ഗവണ്മെന്റിനുമത്രം അതിനെ വേണ്ടവിധത്തിൽ സഹായിച്ച് നല്ലനിലയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുവാൻ സാധിക്കാത്തത് അപമാനകരമായതാണ്. അടുത്തകാലത്തുതന്നെ ടാനറിസിന്റേയും പോട്ടറീസിന്റേയും കാര്യത്തിൽ വളരെ ആദായം കിട്ടിവരുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു കാണുന്നതിൽ എനിക്കു വളരെ സന്തോഷമുണ്ട്. കെട്ടിടങ്ങൾപോലും പഴയവിലേക്കു വിറ്റാൽ ഇരുമ്പുസാധനങ്ങൾക്കും മറ്റും ഇപ്പോൾ വിലക്കൂടുതലുള്ളതുകൊണ്ട് കൂടുതൽ കിട്ടാനിടയുണ്ട്. ൨൪, ൦൦൦ ഉറപ്പിക മിഷ്യനറീസ് മാത്രം വിറ്റുകിട്ടുന്നുണ്ട്. എത്ര മാക്കറിൽ പോയാലും കൊച്ചിൻ പോട്ടറീസിലെ സാധനങ്ങൾ നല്ലതാണെന്നു പറയും. എന്നാൽ അവിടെ സാധനങ്ങൾ ധാരാളം സ്റ്റോക്കുണ്ട്, നഷ്ടമാണുള്ളതെന്നു ചീഫ് എഞ്ചിനീയർ പറയുന്നു. മദ്രാസ് മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ഇവിടെത്തെ പോട്ടറീസിലുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന സാധനങ്ങൾ നല്ലതാണെന്നും വിലക്കുറവുള്ളതാണെന്നും പറയുന്നുണ്ട്. സാധനങ്ങൾ നല്ലത്, വിലസഹായം, എന്നിട്ടും കൊച്ചിഗവണ്മെന്റിനു നഷ്ടം. എന്താണിതിനു കാരണം?

മിസ്റ്റർ ബി. എം. പീറ്റർ: കാലദോഷംതന്നെ.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ: കാലദോഷമല്ല, അത് നടത്തുന്നവരുടെ വകതിരിവില്ലായ്മയാണ്. അടുത്ത അവസരത്തിൽ എന്താണ് ഒരാളുടെ മുമ്പ് ഉണ്ടായ ഒരു സംഭവം പറയാം. അതു ഞാൻ നേരിട്ടു പോയി കാണുകയുണ്ടായി. ൨൫ കൊല്ലം മുമ്പ് ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ ഗവണ്മെന്റിൽനിന്നും ൫, ൦൦൦ ഉറപ്പിക വാങ്ങി ആദായമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ഗവണ്മെന്റിലേക്കു തരാമെന്നു സമ്മതിച്ചു കോഴിക്കോട്ടു ഒരു സോപ്പ് ഫാക്ടറി ആരംഭിച്ചു. കഴിഞ്ഞുകൊല്ലം ൪൦,൦൦൦ ഉറപ്പികയാണ് അതിൽനിന്നും ആദായം കിട്ടിയത്. ഇത് ഞാൻ ഏഴു ദിവസംമുമ്പ് അറിഞ്ഞ ഒരു വർത്തമാനമാണ്. ആദ്യം എക്സ്പെരിമെന്റലായിട്ടു തുടങ്ങിയതു ഇപ്പോൾ സക്രസായി. അതുപോലെ ഒരു ൫,൦൦൦ ഉറപ്പിക ചിലവാക്കി അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ഒരു ബിസിനസ് തുടങ്ങുവാൻ ഇവിടെ സ്കോപ്പില്ലേ? എത്രവേണമെങ്കിലും സ്കോപ്പുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ട് നിവൃത്തിയുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തും അതു തുടങ്ങിയാൽ കൊള്ളാം. വേറെ ഒന്നു പറയുവാനുള്ളത് പൈപ്പുവയ് ബിസിനസ്

നടത്തുന്ന സ്റ്റാൻഡേർഡ് ഫർണിച്ചർ കമ്പനിയെക്കുറിച്ചാണ്. ൨൪ മണിക്കൂർ നേരം രാത്രിയും പകലും ഫാക്ടറി നിയമത്തിൽനിന്നു ഒഴിവാക്കിയാണ് അവിടെ പണികൾ നടത്തുന്നത്. അവിടെ വളരെ പണം ചിലവാക്കിയുള്ള മിഷ്യനറി യൊന്നും ഞാൻ കണ്ടില്ല. അതിന് എന്തു മരമായാലും തരക്കേടില്ല. ഏതു മരവും ഉപയോഗിക്കാമെന്നാണറിയുന്നത്. അതും ഇവിടെ തുടങ്ങിയാൽ നല്ലതാണ്. ഇനി ഒരു വിഷയം മാത്രമെ എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളൂ. മിസ്റ്റർ ഭോർ ടി വാൻജിയായിരുന്നാകാലത്തു ഇവിടെ പേപ്പർ കമ്പനി തുടങ്ങേണ്ട കാര്യത്തെപ്പറ്റി അന്വേഷിക്കുവാൻ ഒരു എക്സ്പെർട്ടിനെ വരുത്തിയതിൽ പൾപ്പ് എല്ലാകാലത്തും ഉണ്ടാകയില്ലെന്നു കണ്ടതിനാൽ അതു തുടങ്ങുകയുണ്ടായില്ല. മുളവെച്ചു പിടിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ വല്ല പ്രയാസവുമുണ്ടോ? കോഴിക്കോട്ടു സോപ്പു ഫാക്ടറി തുടങ്ങിയതു ൫,൦൦൦ ഉറപ്പികൊണ്ടാണ്. അതു ഇപ്പോൾ സകുസസായി നടക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. അതുപോലെ നടത്തുവാൻ കഴിവുള്ള ഒരാളെ ഏതെങ്കിലും തരത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെന്റ് കൊണ്ടുവന്നു ഇവിടെയുള്ള ഇൻഡസ്ട്രീസിനെ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ ഏല്പിച്ചു കൊടുത്താലല്ലാതെ നമുക്ക് യാതൊരു രക്ഷയും കിട്ടുകയില്ല. ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ കറേഫിഗർ കാണിച്ചതുകൊണ്ടുമാത്രം കാര്യമില്ല. പുതുതായി എന്തൊക്കെയാണ് ഗവണ്മെന്റ് ചെയ്യുവാൻ പോകുന്നതെന്നു ഇതിൽ കാണുന്നില്ല. ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റിനും എത്രയെത്ര സംഖ്യ അനുവദിക്കുന്നുവെന്നുള്ളതൊന്നും ഞങ്ങൾക്കു ബാധകമല്ല. അതെല്ലാം “It is only family arrangement”. ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് പ്രസംഗിക്കുവാനുള്ള സംഗതികൾ യാതൊന്നും ഈ ബഡ്ജറ്റിലില്ല. അനവധി കാലമായിട്ടു ബഡ്ജറ്റിനെക്കുറിച്ചു പ്രസംഗിക്കാത്ത ഞാൻ ഈ റെജിമിന്റെ വ്യത്യാസംകൊണ്ട് വല്ല വ്യത്യാസവും വന്നാലോ എന്നു വിചാരിച്ചു ഏഴുനേരമിരുന്നതാണ്. ഇതോടുകൂടിതന്നെ കാൺസർവ്റ്റിററുഷനൽ റിഫോമിനെപ്പറ്റിയും എനിക്കു ഒരു സംഗതി പറയുവാനുണ്ട്. ചില വകുപ്പുകൾ ഒരു മന്ത്രിയെ ഏല്പിച്ചു കൊടുത്തിട്ട് വളരെക്കാലമായി. ഇനി വല്ലതും കൂടുതലായി ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടോ എന്ന് ഞങ്ങൾക്കു നിശ്ചയമില്ല. അങ്ങിനെയൊന്നു ചെയ്യുവാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ നിങ്ങൾ ഞങ്ങളെ പഴയ സ്ഥിതിയിലേക്കു എത്തിക്കണം. അല്ലാതെ അദ്ദേഹത്തേയും ഞങ്ങളേയും ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിക്കരുത്. അവിടെ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന് മഹാനരകമാണെന്നു ഞങ്ങൾക്കറിയാം. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന് ഞങ്ങളേയും, നിങ്ങളേയും തൃപ്തിപ്പെടുത്തണം. ഇതു ഞാൻ ഭൂതഭൂതത്തോടുകൂടി പറയുകയാണെന്നു തെറ്റി ചാരിക്കരുത്. ഒരു കഡംബത്തിലാണെങ്കിലും പരസ്പരം കഴിയുന്ന ഒരു കാരണവക്ഷ മരുമക്കളെ തൃപ്തിപ്പെടുത്തണമല്ലോ. വല്ലതും നിങ്ങൾക്കു ചെയ്യുവാനുദ്ദേശമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ചെയ്യുക; അല്ലെങ്കിൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ പഴയ നിലയിൽ ഇങ്ങോട്ടയയ്ക്കുക. ഞങ്ങൾ പിന്നീട് ഇവിടെ ഇരുന്നുകൊണ്ട് ഒന്നുകൂടി പിടിച്ചുനോക്കാം. ഇന്നു രാവിലെ ഫാർബറിനെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള ഒരു ചോദ്യത്തിന് ഇവിടെ വട്ടംകറങ്ങുന്നതു കണ്ടു. എന്താണതിന്റെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടെന്നുള്ളതു പറഞ്ഞാൽ മതി. അതു സ്വകാര്യമായിട്ടു പറഞ്ഞാലും വിരോധമില്ല. ആ ഭാഗം ഇവരോട് റിപ്പോർട്ട് ചെയ്യുണ്ടോ എന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ പോരേ. അതുകൊണ്ട് കൂടുതൽ അധികാരം തരുവാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ തരിക. തരുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ ഞങ്ങളോടൊപ്പം ഇരിക്കുവാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ ഇങ്ങോട്ടയയ്ക്കുതരിക; എന്നുള്ള അപേക്ഷയോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ പ്രസംഗം അവസാനിപ്പിക്കുന്നു.

മിസ്സിസ്സ് തങ്കമ്മ എൻ. മേനോൻ: സാധുക്കളായ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളുടെ ഉച്ചഭക്ഷണച്ചിലവിലേക്കായി വിനിയോഗിക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി ഇക്കൊല്ലത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ൫,൦൦൦ ഉറപ്പിക നീക്കവെച്ചുകാണുന്നതിൽ ഞാൻ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവണ്മെന്റിനെ അഭിനന്ദിക്കുകയും, ഇനി എല്ലാകൊല്ലങ്ങളിലും ഈ ഒരു ഇനത്തിലേക്കു

വേണ്ടി ഇതിലും കൂടുതലായ ഒരു സംഖ്യ കൊള്ളിക്കണമെന്നപേക്ഷിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഗവണ്മെന്റ് ഇപ്രകാരം ഒരു എപ്പാട് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത് സാധുക്കളായ വിദ്യാർത്ഥിനികൾക്കു എത്രത്തോളം ഒരു അനുഗ്രഹമായിട്ടാണ് തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നത് എന്ന് പ്രത്യേകം പരയേണ്ടതില്ലല്ലോ. ഓരോ വിദ്യാലയങ്ങളിലും പോയി നോക്കിയാൽ എത്രയെത്ര സാധു കുട്ടികളാണ് ഉച്ചഭക്ഷണം കഴിക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കാതെ വിശന്നുവാടി തളന്നിരിക്കുന്നതെന്നു കാണാവുന്നതാണ്. എറണാകുളം ഗവണ്മെന്റ് സ്കൂളിലെ ചില സാധു കുട്ടികളുടെ കഷ്ടതകളെ "അണ്ണാക്കണ്ണനും തന്നാലായത്" എന്നു പറയുന്നതുപോലെ എറണാകുളം സ്ത്രീ സമാജം വകയായി സാധുക്കളിൽവെച്ചുസാധുക്കളായ ൩൦ വിദ്യാർത്ഥിനികളെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്ത് സമാജാംഗങ്ങളുടെ പ്രത്യേക മേൽനോട്ടത്തിൽ സമാജസ്ഥലത്തുവെച്ച് ഉച്ചഭക്ഷണം തയ്യാറാക്കി കൊടുത്തുവരുന്നുണ്ട്. ഈ എപ്പാട് തുടങ്ങിട്ട് ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരു കൊല്ലത്തിലധികമായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിലേക്ക് സമാജത്തിന്റെ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷയായ ശ്രീമതി വി. കെ. ലക്ഷ്മിക്കുട്ടി വലിയനൈത്യാരമ്മ അവർകൾ വേണ്ടത്തക്ക പ്രോത്സാഹനം ചെയ്തതനുണ്ട്. എന്നുള്ള സംഗതി പ്രത്യേകം പ്രസ്താവയോഗ്യമാണ്. എന്നാൽ സമാജാംഗങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും പിരിച്ചെടുക്കുന്ന സംഖ്യ തുലോം കുറവായതിനാൽ ൩൦ വിദ്യാർത്ഥിനികൾക്കു മാത്രമേ ഇപ്പോൾ ഭക്ഷണം കൊടുക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നുള്ളൂ. ഇതിനെ കുറേക്കൂടി വിപുലമായ തോതിൽ നടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിൽനിന്നും നീക്കിവെച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഈ അതുകൾ ഉറപ്പികയിൽനിന്നും നല്ലതായ ഒരു തുക എറണാകുളം സ്ത്രീ സമാജത്തെ എല്പിച്ചുകൊടുക്കണമെന്നും, അതുപോലെതന്നെ ഇതിലേക്കുവേണ്ടി പരിശ്രമിക്കുന്ന മറ്റു സമാജങ്ങൾക്കും വേണ്ടത്തക്ക പ്രോത്സാഹനം നൽകണമെന്നും ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിനോടുപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

കോളേജിൽ പഠിക്കുന്ന വിദ്യാർത്ഥിനികൾക്കു പഠിച്ചുതാമസിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള സൗകര്യത്തിനുവേണ്ടി സൗകര്യമായ ഒരു കെട്ടിടം ഇല്ലാതെ അവർ വളരെക്കാലമായി ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിവന്നിരുന്നു. ഈ സംഗതി കഴിഞ്ഞ കൗൺസിലിൽ ഞാൻ ഒരു പ്രമേയംമൂലം ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ട്രഷ്യറിയിൽ പെടുത്തുകയും, ആ പ്രമേയം ഈ സഭ ഭൂരിപക്ഷത്തോടുകൂടി പാസ്സാക്കി എങ്കിലും ഗവണ്മെന്റ് അതിനെ അംഗീകരിക്കാതിരിക്കുകയാണ് ചെയ്തത്. എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ കൗൺസിലിന്റെ ഗൗരവത്തെയും ആവശ്യകതയെയും മനസ്സിലാക്കി ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിൽനിന്നും ഒരു കെട്ടിടം ഹോസ്റ്റലിന്റെ ആവശ്യത്തിലേക്കായി സൗകര്യപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊടുത്തതിൽ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിനോടു ഹാർദ്ദമായി നന്ദിപറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഈ എപ്പാട് തല്ലാലത്തേക്കുള്ള ഒരു മുട്ടശാന്തി മാത്രമേ ആയിട്ടുള്ളൂ. അടുത്ത ഭാവിയിൽതന്നെ കൂടുതൽ വിദ്യാർത്ഥിനികൾക്കു താമസിക്കുവാനുള്ള സൗകര്യത്തോടുകൂടി ആൺകുട്ടികൾക്കുള്ള കോസ്റ്റോപ്പോളിട്ടൺ ഹോസ്റ്റൽപോലെയുള്ള ഒരു കെട്ടിടം ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കേണമെന്ന് ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിനോടു അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ഇനി എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളത് യാചകപ്രശ്നത്തെപ്പറ്റിയാണ്. യാചകപ്രശ്നം ഈ നാട്ടിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ വലുതായ ഒരു പ്രശ്നമായിട്ടാണിരിക്കുന്നത്. യാചകന്മാരെ രക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിന് കഴിയുന്നതും വേഗത്തിൽ ഏതു പ്രകാരത്തിലേക്കിലും ഒരു നിവാരണമാർഗ്ഗം കണ്ടുപിടിക്കേണ്ട കാലം അതിക്രമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. യാചകന്മാർ പട്ടണത്തിൽ അലഞ്ഞുനടക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് ജനങ്ങൾക്കു പലേബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകൾ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നുവെന്നുമാത്രമല്ല, അവരിൽനിന്നും പലവിധത്തിലുള്ള പകർച്ചവ്യാധികൾ പട്ടണങ്ങളിൽ പടർന്നുപിടിക്കുവാൻ ഇടയാകുന്നു. മദ്രാസിലും നമ്മുടെ അയൽരാജ്യമായ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും ഇപ്പോൾ ഇതിനുവേണ്ടി അത്യന്തം പരി

ശ്രമിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഗവണ്മെന്റതന്നെ ഇതിലേക്ക് ഇനിഷ്യേറ്റീവ് എടുക്കുന്നതായാൽ തീർച്ചയായും പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ സഹായസഹകരണങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്നുള്ളതിന് യാതൊരു സംശയവുമില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഗവണ്മെന്റ് ഇതിൽ അടിയന്തരശ്രദ്ധ പതിപ്പിക്കേണമെന്നു അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

എ. ആർ. പി. പരിശ്രമങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി രണ്ടു വാക്ക് പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളട്ടെ. ൯൩,൦൦൦ ഉറപ്പികയോളം എ. ആർ. പി. പ്രവർത്തനത്തിനായി ചിലവാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുണ്ട്. രണ്ടുകൊല്ലം മുമ്പ് എറണാകുളം ഹോസ്പിറ്റലിലേക്ക് ഒരു ആമ്പുലൻസ് വാങ്ങണമെന്നുള്ള ഒരു പ്രമേയം ഞാൻ ഇവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുകയും, പ്രമേയത്തെ ഗവണ്മെന്റ് സ്വീകരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. എന്നാൽ അതിനുവേണ്ടി ഇതുവരെ യാതൊന്നും ചെയ്തുകാണുന്നില്ല. ഈ കൊല്ലത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിലെങ്കിലും അതിലേക്കുവേണ്ടിയുള്ള ഒരു തുക കൊള്ളിക്കുമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ വിചാരിച്ചത്. എ. ആർ. പി. ക്ക് വേണ്ടി ഇത്ര വമ്പിച്ച സംഖ്യ ചിലവിടുന്നതിന് ശരിയായ ഫലം ഉണ്ടാകേണമെങ്കിൽ ആമ്പുലൻസ് വാങ്ങിക്കാതെ തരമില്ല. വല്ല എയർ റെയിലോ മറ്റോ ഇവിടെ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നപക്ഷം എ. ആർ. പി. ആഫീസ്സെസ്സും വാർഡൻമാരും റോഡുകളിൽ കൂടി അങ്ങോട്ടും ഇങ്ങോട്ടും ഓടിയതുകൊണ്ട് മുറിവേറാവരെ രക്ഷിക്കുവാൻ അവർക്ക് സാധിക്കുകയില്ല. മുറിവേറാവരെ അടുത്തതായ ആതുരപത്രികളിലേക്കു കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിന് വേണ്ടിയും പ്രഥമ ശുശ്രൂഷകൾ ചെയ്യുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടിയും ആമ്പുലൻസ് ഉണ്ടായാലെ സാധിക്കുകയുള്ളൂ. അതുകൊണ്ട് ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവണ്മെന്റ് ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണമെന്നും അതോടുകൂടിത്തന്നെ air raid shelters കെട്ടിക്കുവാൻ പരിശ്രമങ്ങൾ ഉടൻ ചെയ്തിക്കേണമെന്നും ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ഇനി ഏറ്റവും പ്രധാനമായ ഒരു സംഗതി എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളത് സ്ത്രീകളെ ഗവണ്മെന്റ് സർവ്വീസിൽ എടുക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റിയാണ്. ഞാൻ മുൻപാരിക്കൽ സ്ത്രീകളെ പോലീസുവകുപ്പിലേക്ക് എടുക്കണമെന്നു പ്രസ്താവിച്ചപ്പോൾ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട പോലീസ് കമ്മീഷണർ അവർക്കു ഭിന്നാഭിപ്രായമാണ് പറഞ്ഞത്. എന്നാൽ ഞാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തോട് ഒട്ടുംതന്നെ യോജിക്കുന്നില്ല. പാശ്ചാത്യരാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ ധാരാളമായി വനിതകളെ പട്ടാളത്തിലേക്ക് എടുത്തുവരുന്നുണ്ടെന്നും, അവർ അവരുടെ ജോലികൾ പ്രശസ്തമായി ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടെന്നും ഉള്ള സംഗതി പലേ റിപ്പോർട്ടുകളിൽനിന്നും നമ്മൾ കാണുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇൻഡ്യയിലെ വനിതകളും പാശ്ചാത്യ വനിതകളെപ്പോലെതന്നെ പ്രാപ്തരാണെന്നാണ് സ്ത്രീകളായ ഞങ്ങളുടെ അഭിമാനം. പോലീസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലേക്ക് തല്ക്കാലം സ്ത്രീകളെ നിയമിക്കുവാൻ ഗവണ്മെന്റിന് വല്ല അസൗകര്യവും തോന്നുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ജൂഡീഷ്യറിയിലു മറ്റുള്ള എല്ലാ ഗവണ്മെന്റ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റുകളിലും സ്ത്രീകളെ നിയമിക്കുവാൻ എന്താണ് വിരോധമുള്ളതെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നത്. ഇപ്പോൾ സ്ത്രീകൾ വക്കീലന്മാരായി എറണാകുളത്തും തൃശ്ശിവപേരൂരും ധാരാളം പ്രാക്ടീസ് ചെയ്തുവരുന്നു. അതുപോലെതന്നെ ലേഡി ഡോക്ടർമാരായും മറ്റും സർവ്വകലാശാല പരീക്ഷകൾ പാസ്സായിട്ടുള്ളവരായും അനവധി സ്ത്രീകൾ യാതൊരു ജോലിയും കിട്ടാതെ നിരാശരായി ജീവകാലം കഴിച്ചുകൂട്ടിവരുന്നു. ഇവർക്ക് ഗവണ്മെന്റിൽനിന്നു തക്കതായ പ്രോത്സാഹനം നൽകുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ള മുറവിളി കൂട്ടിത്തുടങ്ങിട്ടു വളരെക്കാലമായി. ഈ സംഗതി പലതവണയും ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിലും പെടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഇനിമേലാലെങ്കിലും എല്ലാ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലും സ്ത്രീകളെ കഴിയുന്നത്ര നിയമിക്കേണമെന്നുള്ള അപേക്ഷയോടുകൂടി തൽക്കാലം വിരമിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

മിസ്സിസ് സി. ആർ. ഇയ്യപ്പി: സർ, ഈ കൊല്ലത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ മറുകൊല്ലങ്ങളെ അപേക്ഷിച്ച് പറയത്തക്ക പുതുമയൊന്നും ഉള്ളതായി കാണുന്നില്ല. രാജ്യത്തിൽ കാതുംതാലും സാരമായും പല മാറ്റങ്ങളും വന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും ബഡ്ജറ്റ് ഏറെക്കുറെ പഴയപടിതന്നെയാണ്. എങ്കിലും കാതുശേഷിയും, പ്രജാരക്ഷാകാംക്ഷയും, സാധുജന തല്പരതയും വേണ്ടുവോളമുള്ള ഒരു വിശാലഹൃദയനായ മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിലെ ശക്തഹസ്തങ്ങളിൽ രാജ്യത്തിന്നു ശോഭനമായൊരു ഭാവിയിലുണ്ടാകുമെന്നാണല്ലോ നമ്മളേവരുടേയും പ്രതീക്ഷ. മുരങ്ങിയകാലത്തെ അന്നുവേത്തിൽനിന്നും അത് വേണ്ടത്ര പ്രകാശിപ്പിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. തിരുമനസ്സുകൊണ്ട് രാജഭാരം കയ്യേറ്റശേഷം ഉണ്ടായ കൊടുങ്കാറ്റ് മുതലായ ദുഃസ്ഥിതികളാൽ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്ന സാധുക്കളെ അവിടന്ന് ഉള്ളഴിഞ്ഞു സഹായിച്ചത് എത്രത്തോളം ആശ്വാസമാണെന്നു നാമൊക്കെ അറിഞ്ഞുകഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ദേശഭാഗങ്ങളെ വീക്ഷിക്കുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ നമുക്കുള്ള വലിയൊരു സമാധാനം രാജ്യം ആ മഹാത്മാവിന്റെ ബലഹസ്തങ്ങളിലാണെന്നുള്ളത് മാത്രമാണ്.

സാധു വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്ക് ഉച്ചഭക്ഷണത്തിന്നു ൫, ൦ ൦ ൦ ക. വക കൊള്ളിച്ചുകാണുന്നത് സന്തോഷപ്രദമായൊരു കാര്യമാണ്. ഓരോ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലും സ്വാധീനശക്തിയുള്ളവരും നിസ്വാർത്ഥസേവനത്തിന്നൊരുക്കമുള്ളവരുമായ മാന്യന്മാരെ ഓരോ കമ്മറ്റിയായി നിശ്ചയിച്ച്, പൊതുജനങ്ങളിൽനിന്നു സംഭാവന സ്വീകരിപ്പാനധികാരപ്പെടുത്തി അർഹിക്കുന്ന സാധുക്കൾക്ക് മുഴുവനും ഉപകാരപ്രദമായിത്തീരത്തക്ക നിലയിൽ ഉള്ള ഏല്പാടുകൾ കൂടി ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണ്.

മൈനർ ഇറിഗേഷൻ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ കൊള്ളിച്ചുകാണുന്ന സംഖ്യ തീരെ മതിയായിട്ടില്ല. കൊച്ചി രാജ്യത്തിലെ ജനങ്ങളിൽ ബഹുഭരിപക്ഷവും ഗ്രാമങ്ങളിൽ ജീവിക്കുന്ന കർഷകരാകയാൽ കാർഷികാവൃദ്ധിക്കായി കാതുംതാലും ചിലപദ്ധതികൾ ആരംഭിക്കേണ്ടത് ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ മുതലായാണ്. ഏകദേശം ൩ കൊല്ലങ്ങൾക്കുമുമ്പ് ആരോഴ് ഗ്രാമങ്ങളിൽ നടത്തിയ സാമ്പത്തിക സർവ്വേ റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽനിന്നും ഗ്രാമീണരായ കർഷകരുടെ കഷ്ടപ്പാടുകൾ വ്യക്തമായിട്ടുണ്ട്. നാൾകഴിയുന്തോറും ആ കഷ്ടപ്പാടുകൾ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നതല്ലാതെ അതിന്നു യാതൊരിരക്കുമില്ലെന്നു നമുക്കറിയാമല്ലോ. സൂക്ഷിപ്പരവും, പ്രായോഗികവുമായ ചിലപദ്ധതികൾമൂലം കർഷകരുടെ കഷ്ടപ്പാടുകൾക്കൊരു അറുതി വരുത്തുകയാണ് ഗവണ്മെന്റ് ഉടനെ ചെയ്യേണ്ടത്. പൊതുവെ പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ മനഃസ്ഥിതിക്കു സമൃദ്ധമായ ഒരു പരിവർത്തനംതന്നെ ഉണ്ടാകണം. ഇതുവരെ പൊതുഭണ്ഡാരത്തിൽനിന്നും ചിലവുചെയ്ത അധികവും പട്ടണപരിഷ്കാരങ്ങൾക്കും വൻതോതിലുള്ള കെട്ടിടങ്ങൾക്കും മറ്റുമാണല്ലോ. പൊതുഭണ്ഡാരത്തെ തടിപ്പിക്കുന്ന പാവപ്പെട്ട കർഷകരുടെ കാതുംതാലിൽ ശാശ്വതമായ പദ്ധതികളൊന്നും കയ്യൊണ്ടിട്ടില്ല. അതിന്നുള്ള ശരിയായ ഒരു പോംവഴിയായിരിക്കും മേജർ ഇറിഗേഷൻ. ഉപയോഗശൂന്യമായി കിടക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങളെ കൃഷിപ്പയോഗപ്പെടുത്തുവാനും കോർകൃഷിക്കാവശ്യമായ ജലശേഖരംചെയ്യാനും, ജലക്ഷാമമുള്ള പട്ടണപ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽകൂടി ജലവിതരണം നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുവാനും ഇതുമൂലം സാധിക്കുന്നതാണ്.

ആയുർവ്വേദത്തിന്നു ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ കൊള്ളിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത് കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലത്തെ അപേക്ഷിച്ച് കുറെ ആശ്വാസമാണെങ്കിലും കുറെക്കൂടികൊള്ളിക്കേണ്ടതായിരുന്നുവെന്നാണെന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. യുദ്ധംമൂലം അലോപ്പതി മരുന്നുകൾക്ക് വില വളരെ വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ആയുർവ്വേദാസ്സതികൾ ഓരോ വില്ലേജിലും ഓരോന്നെങ്കിലും സ്ഥാപിക്കണം. അലോപ്പതിയെ അപേക്ഷിച്ച് ചിലവു വളരെ കുറവും, ഗുണം

വളരെ അധികവും ആകയാൽ അതിനെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നത് വളരെ നല്ലതാണല്ലോ. ശസ്ത്രക്രിയ മുതലായതുകൾക്ക് മാത്രം അലോപ്പതി ആസ്പത്രികൾ മതിയാവുന്നതാണ്. സാമ്പത്തികമായി വീക്ഷിക്കുന്നതായാലും അലോപ്പതിയെക്കാൾ വളരെ എളുപ്പവും ആദായകരവും, ഉപകാരപ്രദവും ആയുർവ്വേദമാണ്. വിഷവൈദ്യസ്ഥാപനങ്ങളും ഇതോടൊപ്പം വിപുലമാക്കണം. ആകയാൽ അതിന്റെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്ക് വേണ്ടപ്പെട്ട കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ ഗവണ്മെണ്ട് പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുമെന്നു വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു.

പാഠപുസ്തക കാര്യം കൊച്ചിയിൽ സകലരേയും ബാധിക്കുന്ന ഒരു വിഷമപ്രശ്നമാണ്. പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ നൂ കൊല്ലത്തേക്ക് മാറാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നുള്ള ഉത്തരവ് വളരെ ഉചിതമായിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ ആ ഉത്തരവ് ഇപ്പോൾ നിലവിലുള്ള പുസ്തകങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചും, അംഗീകരിക്കുവാൻ പോകുന്ന പുസ്തകങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചും, എന്നറിയുന്നില്ല. നിലവിലുള്ള പുസ്തകങ്ങളിൽ പല കൃത്രിമങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്ന് ഈ സഭാനടപടികൾ തെളിയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സ്ഥിതിക്ക് ആ ഉത്തരവ് നിലവിലുള്ള (ഇപ്പോൾ അംഗീകരിച്ചുകഴിഞ്ഞ) പുസ്തകങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചായിരിക്കരുത്. പുതുതായി അംഗീകരിക്കുന്ന പുസ്തകങ്ങൾക്കായിരിക്കണം ആ ഉത്തരവ് ബാധകമാക്കേണ്ടതു്. അംഗീകരിക്കുന്നതിലും, പ്രിന്റ് ക്രെഡ് ചെയ്യുന്നതിലും സിറിക്കാലും, പ്രായോഗികവുമായ ഒരു നയം കയ്യാളേണം. നിവൃത്തിയുള്ള പക്ഷം പാഠപുസ്തകങ്ങളെ വിദഗ്ദ്ധന്മാരെക്കൊണ്ടു് തിരിച്ചു വിദഗ്ദ്ധകമ്മറ്റിയെ കൊണ്ടു പരിശോധിപ്പിച്ചു്, ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് വിലക്കു വാങ്ങുകയും, പിന്നീടു് അച്ചടിപ്പിക്കുകയോ, ടെണ്ടർ വിളിച്ചൊ മറ്റൊ ശരിപ്പെടുത്തുകയോ വേണം.

ഉത്തരകൊച്ചിയിലെ അനേകം പെൺകുട്ടികൾ ഉപരിവിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിന്നു് സൗകര്യമില്ലാതെ വിഷമിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്ന് ഈ സഭയിൽ ഇതിന്നുമുമ്പു് നടന്ന ചോദ്യോത്തരങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും വ്യക്തമായിട്ടുണ്ടല്ലോ. മകന്ദപുരം, തലപ്പിള്ളി, ചിററൂർ, തൃശ്ശിവപേരൂർ മുതലായ താലൂക്കുകളിലെ വിദ്യാർത്ഥിനികൾക്കു് എറണാകുളത്തുവന്നു് ഉപരിവിദ്യാഭ്യാസം നിർവ്വഹിച്ചുപോകുവാൻ വളരെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്റെ അറിവിൽതന്നെ ധാരാളം യുവതികൾ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം പൂർത്തിയാക്കാതെ അവിടങ്ങളിൽ കഴിഞ്ഞുകൂടുന്നുണ്ട്. എറണാകുളത്തുവന്നു് താമസിച്ചു പഠിക്കുന്നതിന്നു് സാമ്പത്തികസ്ഥിതി അവരിൽ പലരേയും അനുവദിക്കുന്നില്ല. അതിനാൽ തൃശ്ശിവപേരൂരിൽ ഒരു വനിതാകലാലയം സ്ഥാപിക്കുകയോ, ട്രൈവററ് എജൻസികൾക്കു് ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിൽനിന്നും ആവശ്യമായ പ്രോത്സാഹനം നൽകുകയോ വേണ്ടതാണ്.

കൊച്ചിയിലെ പ്രധാന വാണിജ്യകേന്ദ്രങ്ങളായ തൃശ്ശിവപേരൂരും കൊച്ചിയുമായി ജലമാറ്റബന്ധം എപ്പോഴുതേണ്ടതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ഈ സഭയിൽ പലപ്പോഴും വാദപ്രതിവാദങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ആ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഇതുവരെയും വേണ്ടപ്പെട്ട നടപടികൾ നടത്താതിരുന്നത് ഒട്ടുംതന്നെ നന്നായിട്ടില്ല. കഴിയുന്ന വേഗത്തിൽ അതിന്നൊരു പരിഹാരം ഉണ്ടാക്കുവാൻ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് ഒരുമ്പെടേണ്ടതാണ്. ആ തോടിന്റെ പ്രവൃത്തി വേഗത്തിൽ ആരംഭിക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ കൊടുക്കാറുമൂലവും മറ്റും ദുരിതങ്ങളനുഭവിക്കുന്ന ജനപ്രമാണുത്തിന്നു് വലിയൊരു അനുഗ്രഹമായിരിക്കും.

തൃശ്ശിവപേരൂർ പട്ടണവാസികൾ ജലക്ഷാമംമൂലം അനുഭവിക്കുന്ന കഷ്ടപ്പാടുകളിൽ ഈ സഭയുടെ സഹതാപം ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ളതു് ഞാൻ വിസ്മരിക്കുന്നില്ല. ആ സഹതാപം പ്രവൃത്തിയിൽ കാണാത്തതു് തീർച്ചയായും സമാദരണീയമല്ല. വളരെ അധികം ജനങ്ങൾ തിങ്ങിപ്പാകുന്ന ഒരു പട്ടണമാണു് തൃശ്ശിവപേരൂർ. വലു

തായ ചാലക്കുടി പദ്ധതി നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അത് ശാശ്വതമായ ഒരു സഹായമായിരിക്കും. സക്കാരിന്റെ കോശസ്ഥിതി തല്ലാലാ അനുവദിക്കുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ ചില താല്ക്കാലിക പദ്ധതികളെങ്കിലും സ്വീകരിക്കേണ്ടതാവശ്യമാണ്. പട്ടണത്തിന്റെ നാലുഭാഗങ്ങളിലും കളം താഴ്ത്തി വെള്ളം സംഭരിച്ച് വില്പിക്കുക ഉപയോഗിച്ച് പട്ടണവാസികൾക്ക് ജലവിതരണം ചെയ്യുവാൻ പര്യാപ്തമായ ഒരു സ്കീം ഗവണ്മെന്റ് വരുംകൊല്ലംതന്നെ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തേണ്ടതാണ്.

സ്ട്രീകളെ സംബന്ധിക്കുന്ന പ്രത്യേക വിഷയങ്ങളിൽ ഗവണ്മെന്റ് അംഗീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള വിശാലനയം സ്തുത്യർഹമായ ഒന്നാണ്. അല്പകാലമായി സർവ്വീസിൽ അവരർഹിക്കുന്നത്രയില്ലെങ്കിലും, അവരെ തീരെ അവഗണിക്കാതെ കണ്ടതിൽ ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെന്റിനെ അഭിനന്ദിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. പുതുതായി ദേവസ്വം വകുപ്പിൽകൂടി സ്ട്രീകൾക്ക് ഉദ്യോഗം നൽകാമെന്ന് ഉത്തരവു പാസ്സാക്കി സ്ട്രീസമുദായത്തെ അനുഗ്രഹിച്ച മഹാരാജാവ് തിരുമേനിയോടു് കൊച്ചിയിലെ സ്ട്രീകളുടെ പ്രതിനിധിയെന്ന നിലയിൽ ഭക്തിബഹുമാനപൂർവ്വം കൃതജ്ഞതപ്രകാശിപ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രസംഗം അവസാനിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. V. N. Damodaran Nambiar (Trippunittura): Sir, since the budget for 1117 that is before this Hon'ble House, has been subjected to a thorough criticism by most of the Hon'ble Members here, I fear I may not have anything new to present before the House. One of the most experienced Hon'ble Members here was telling me the other day that he wanted his budget speeches for the past years in order that he may prepare one for the present year. On thinking about his statement, I am convinced that there is very much significance in what he said. The Hon'ble President at the very outset when he presented the budget before this House stated that he has no new proposals worth mentioning for next year to be placed before us. If Government have not got any new proposals to place before this House for the next year, how can the Hon'ble Members on this side have any new criticisms to offer other than those that we were offering for the past several years on the floor of this House? All criticisms that can possibly be levelled against this budget can be gathered from the proceedings of this Council for the past years. I, on my part, have been pressing upon the Government ever since I came to this Council for certain urgent and important requirements in regard to my own constituency. I have to say that most of those demands are still remaining unsatisfied. I believe, most of the experienced members of this House will have also a similar tale to tell. Any way, since this is the last budget that this Hon'ble House as it is at present constituted may be called upon to criticise, I may, with your permission, give a brief analysis of the figures that I see in this budget which without a thorough study and analysis may be most unintelligible to any of us.

The burden of land revenue in our State is very nearly Re. 1 per head of the population, whereas in our sister State of Travancore

it is only 12 annas. The agricultural and land owning population in our State is labouring under the devastating effects of a terrible cyclone the like of which we had not experienced within living memory. Several trees have been uprooted and crops damaged throughout the length and breadth of our State. It is strange that under these exceptional conditions the Government have thought fit to anticipate an increase in their land revenue receipts for 1117. The figures will show that whereas we got Rs. 12.54 lakhs in 1115, and we think of realising Rs. 12.26 lakhs in the current year, we anticipate to get Rs. 12.63 for the coming year. These figures will show that the Government have not bestowed any thought on the exceptional conditions obtaining here in preparing these estimates.

Let us now look at the various items in the budget from a broad aspect and see what tale they tell us. Our gross income for 1117 is expected to be Rs. 113.49 lakhs out of which we propose to spend Rs. 108.96 leaving a surplus of Rs. 4.53. Taking the revenue yielding departments alone (Land Revenue, Excise, Income-tax, Matches, Stamps & Forests) we intend to spend as we used to spend a sum of Rs. 26.62 lakhs by way of establishment and other charges for the purpose of collecting this revenue. Out of the balance of Rs. 82.34 lakhs a sum of Rs. 22.56 lakhs is proposed to be spent on those Departments charged with the administration of the country and the preservation of law and order. Further a sum of Rs. 12.05 lakhs has to be spent on certain unavoidable accounts like interest, sinking fund and pensions. The balance available for our nation-building departments come to but Rs. 47.73 lakhs or nearly 44 per cent of our total expenditure and 41.5 per cent of our gross income.

Let us further see how this Rs. 47.73 lakhs allotted to our nation-building departments is distributed. Of these departments a few have been recognised to be particularly affecting the well-being of the rural population and entrusted to the care of a popular Minister. We propose to set apart a sum of Rs. 7.97 lakhs for him to spend on his developmental activities. To make it more clear, for the departments primarily affecting the well-being and prosperity of 83 per cent of our population we propose to spend Rs. 7.97 lakhs or 13 per cent of the resources available for nation-building activities. And it is interesting to note that this works out to 6 per cent of our total revenues.

A comparison of the figures relating to these departments 10 years ago and now will further convince this Hon'ble House that the claim of the Government that they have been allotting more and more funds for Rural Development is unsustainable. In 1106 we had to spend Rs. 6.54 lakhs on these departments whereas in 1117 we

propose to spend Rs. 7.97 showing no doubt an increase of Rs. 1.43 lakhs, but which, on further scrutiny, will be found to be only an apparent increase. The increase in land revenue alone, coming solely from the agriculturists, accounts for Rs. 1 lakh during this period not to speak of additional revenues from the working of these departments themselves. However, this apparent increase of Rs. 1.43 lakhs is the share that 83 per cent of our population get directly in the increase of about Rs. 30.16 lakhs in the total revenues of the State during these 10 years.

These figures, I presume, are self-explanatory and show clearly that the rural public do not get adequate return for the payment they make towards the general revenues of the State. The revenues of any State except profits from capital outlay, interest and a few such items do come from the people directly or indirectly. Cochin with a population of over 12 lakhs (I speak on the figures of the last Census) collects over Rs. 100 lakhs as such revenue which works out to Rs. 8 per head of the population. Though comparisons are not always palatable, I say, it is instructive to note in this connection that our sister State of Travancore with a population of over 51 lakhs is getting only Rs. 280 lakhs as revenue which will impose only a burden of Rs. 5 per head of the population there. Clever persons who may be adepts in the art of playing jugglery with figures, may have been able to impress upon the people here that Cochin is the most lightly taxed place on earth. But this impression cannot last long. It is bound to vanish with the juggler's magic wand. The average income per head of the population, as revealed from the Economic Survey Report, is the appallingly low figure of Rs. 27 a year. It is out of this that the State is claiming Rs. 8 for running the administrative machinery. No doubt it is a very heavy burden, but the burden becomes unbearable in view of the unequal way in which the Government are trying to distribute it. We do not mind if the State takes the whole of this Rs. 27, provided we are provided with all our requirements free of charge. The difficulty comes in when it takes from us a lion's share but refuses to provide for our minimum requirements.

We have seen that for collecting a revenue of Rs. 47.6 lakhs we are spending Rs. 10.2 lakhs as sheer collecting charges. This works out to 21 per cent. The corresponding figures for Travancore and Mysore are 13 per cent and 7 per cent respectively. If in a State which is 1/6 in size of Travancore, we have to spend 8 per cent more by way of revenue collection charges we can more or less imagine how top-heavy our administrative machinery happens to be. It may be useful for this House to note that on a rough calculation the establishment charges of our administrative machinery consumes

about 40 to 45 per cent of our total expenditure. This includes the salary of our bureaucracy about 8000 strong, their travelling and other allowances and the contingent charges for running their offices.

Unless therefore radical retrenchment is effected in the overhead charges of our Governmental machinery, we would be helpless in diverting more funds for our developmental activities. I am glad to note that the Government have slowly begun to realise the seriousness of the situation. I hope that at least in the preparation of their next budget they would do well to be less conservative and more liberal towards the requirements of the rural public.

* **Mr. T. P. Poulse** (*Kanayannur*): Mr. President, Sir, the Hon'ble President in the course of his opening speech has stated, and correctly too, that the budget is not a spectacular one but one based upon the principles of what he called conservative finance. In fact, as has been already observed by several Hon'ble Members, the budget is only a reproduction of his predecessors with slight variations of figures here and there, on the credit side probably for reasons beyond the control of the Government and on the debit side to run the administration on its traditional lines. Nevertheless, there are a few novel features in the budget; though of a minor character they are still salient. I do not propose to refer to all of them, but only to one or two of the most important matters. The most important among them is the appropriation by the Hon'ble Minister of Rs. 38,000 for minor irrigation works. This is really a change which ought to be appreciated. In fact we are more grateful to the Hon'ble Minister than those responsible for the administration of the reserved subjects for this appropriation of Rs. 38,000 for minor irrigation works. It is out of the usual allotment of Rs. 1 lakh for revenue reserve fund for rural reconstruction work that the Hon'ble Minister has appropriated this Rs. 38,000 and not on account of the increased benevolence on the part of the reserved half to the Rural Development Department. I shall just compare the amounts that he used in the years 1115 and 1116 with the amounts in the next year's budget for minor irrigation works as far as the amount appropriated from the one lakh is concerned. In 1115 he spent 3,500 rupees on minor irrigation works and Rs. 25,000 on his favourite scheme of Model Panchayats. In 1116 he spent Rs. 10,000 on irrigation works and Rs. 12,500 on his scheme of Model Panchayats. This year it is consoling to find that he appropriated Rs. 38,000 for minor irrigation works and only Rs. 2,500 for the Model Panchayats. This change is welcome both on account of the increased attention to minor irrigation works as well as on account of the abandonment by the Hon'ble Minister of his favourite scheme of Model Panchayats

* Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.

—the Hon'ble Minister is shaking his head—and I will say, at least giving preference to minor irrigation works over the scheme of Model Panchayats. In fact in a book circulated by the Government yesterday this is what the Hon'ble Minister or whoever responsible for the publication of the book has written there.

“The Progress made by these Model Panchayats in their rural welfare activities may not appear to be very striking to the casual observers. But considering the initial difficulties on the way, what has been achieved is very hopeful and encouraging”.

He has stated so much. In fact I expect the Hon'ble Minister to enlighten us in greater detail of what the success of the working of the Model Panchayats is. If this scheme is intended to comprise all the Panchayats in the State, it will take at least 15 to 20 years before the whole scheme is worked out completely. If it is not intended to apply to all the Panchayats, then, it would be an inequitable expenditure of public revenues or a discriminatory show of Governmental benevolence and if his idea is to work the scheme completely till all the Panchayat areas in the State are taken in, as I have already stated, it will take at least 15 to 20 years if the Minister is to depend upon the special contribution from the revenue reserve fund which, I do not know whether it is a dependable source for all times for recurring public expenditure. Well, of course, this year we have not anything about that scheme in the Budget. So I do not wish to dwell more on that scheme.

Then another aspect which I wish to refer to is the relief measures taken by the Government in connection with the havoc caused by the cyclone. Of course, the sympathy which the Government have towards the suffering and poverty of the people has been clearly indicated by what they have already done. But the budget does not give any indication as to what amount they are going to give by way of remission of land revenue or to what extent educational free concessions are to be granted in the Education Department. There has been, of course, an explanation by the Hon'ble President in his speech that the inquiry is not complete and the extent of the havoc caused and the extent of the relief measure required have not been completely obtained. But it is hoped that even in that respect they will continue to show the same liberality and generosity to the people who have been suffering on account of the havoc caused by the cyclone.

A novel feature, although of a minor character, as far as the amount is concerned in the new budget is the amount set apart for the feeding of the poor school children. This I take to be a modest beginning of generosity which may from time to time expand into greater dimensions. But I wish to know from the Director of

Public Instruction or from any other officer of Government as to how this amount is going to be appropriated or divided between the different schools, as to how many children they can feed with the amount now set apart, as to how many children there are really who are without noon meals on account of their poverty and what percentage relief can be given and what exactly will be the total expenditure if all the children now without noon meals on account of their poverty are to be fed on Government expenses. These figures may be useful even at this stage. One particular portion in the Hon'ble President's speech I was listening with special interest. This is what he said.—

"The necessity of bringing all available areas within the State under paddy cultivation, which alone can free us from our dependance upon foreign sources for our staple food, rice, for a large portion of the year, cannot be over-emphasised. The utmost encouragement and all reasonable facilities will be extended to all attempts, individual or collective, in this direction".

This is indeed a laudable and glorious idea couched in very glittering language. In fact, as I listened to that I was also expecting that those sentences will be followed by the announcement of a new scheme by which the object so beautifully expressed in those sentences could be achieved. In fact it has been pointed out by more than one Hon'ble Member as to the possibility of there being shortage of staple food in Cochin State under emergent conditions. If that ever happens it is the imperative duty of this Government in the state of circumstances now obtaining to bring under cultivation all lands available for paddy cultivation and also to increase to the maximum capacity the production of the land which is already under cultivation. I wish to know what steps the Government propose to take in this connection. Two things that are necessary for this purpose are in the first place the leasing or assigning of lands in the possession of the Government which will be useful or suitable for paddy cultivation and to encourage people to cultivate those lands. What are the steps that the Government propose to take in that direction? And another step that can be taken in that direction is greater encouragement to irrigation. The policy of the Government in the matter of assignment of lands in the possession of the Government does not seem to have resulted in any considerably good results. The Hon'ble President has further stated, "it is a matter for regret that the colonisation scheme formulated by the Hon'ble Minister has not received sufficient response from the educated young men of the State." There must be something wrong with the scheme if the scheme has not been worked satisfactorily. If there are people without employment and if there are people who are seeking employment, there is no reason why the

scheme has not been made use of by the young men. So there is some defect in the scheme, and the scheme has to be modified in a form to make it attractive to them. We have to look at this question not merely from the stand-point of a commercial man who wants to sell lands. The question is not the profit that the Government can make by way of land value or land tax which they can collect. We should look at it in a broader aspect, as a possibility of providing employment to the unemployed, as a possibility of increasing the production of rice in this State on which alone we can depend in the case of an emergency. So give up the short-sighted mentality in the matter of assignment of this nature especially at this particular juncture. Government should modify their rules. I do not know the exact details of the scheme which they have before them. This morning I happened to read the rules framed for this land colonisation scheme. It is roughly something like this. About 50 acres of land should be given to co-operative societies consisting of 10 people so that each man can eke out his living with five acres. What yield can you expect from these dry lands, to the extent of five acres? You want him to leave his village and to go to the forest and settle there primarily.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): They are not forests.

Mr. T. P. Poulse (*Kanayannur*): They may be forest exclusions. They will have to leave their houses in their village and go to the forests with their family, if they are married, and have to depend for their livelihood on the yield which they can get from these five acres. Now, do you expect any man to leave his village and go there and settle there with his family? The primary needs of man with regard to food, clothing, medical attendance in the case of sickness and education of children, all these things have to be satisfied by each family. You don't want these boys to go and live there for five years and then return back to their villages. You want them to colonise those lands permanently and if they are to go and colonise there, they will have to live there with their family throughout their life. Food, clothing, medical help in case of sickness and education of children, these are primary needs in modern society. Now, can these five acres alone yield that income? That is a question we have to consider. They cannot resort to any supplementary avocation. They are in the forests. What fresh avocation can they attend to? They must have at least the elementary needs of humanity.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty (*Ezhuvas-Trichur*): Do you ever think that 10 persons can agree?

Mr. T. P. Poullose (*Kanayannur*): That is another difficulty. It is very difficult, as Mr. Krishnankutty has pointed out, to see that 10 persons join together and form a co-operative society.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I understand that difficulty. But Government can advance loans only on adequate security. We can do so only on a co-operative basis. There are advantages also.

Mr. T. P. Poullose (*Kanayannur*): I understand that there are advantages in giving it on a co-operative basis. In the first place there is advantage with regard to getting loans as the Hon'ble Minister stated. Then with regard to certain expenditure which they can incur in common in order to cultivate the holdings on an economic basis. There are also disadvantages. I only wanted to point out one difficulty. The fact remains that there are aspects in the scheme which make it unattractive to the educated unemployed for whose benefit it is intended.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I feel that myself.

Mr. T. P. Poullose (*Kanayannur*): So modify the scheme and make it attractive in order to realise the laudable aim which the Hon'ble President has so beautifully expressed in his opening speech. According to the present scheme, giving of dry lands in the forest to educated unemployed will not serve the purpose. If possible, somehow or other people must be encouraged to take these lands and to cultivate.

Then with regard to the major irrigation projects which are contained in the budget I wish to state that the Hon'ble President has stated that a sum of Rs. 41,500 has been provided in the Public Works Department Budget under irrigation. Last year about Rs. 70,000 had been set apart for major irrigation a portion of which was not spent at all. I think I am right in saying this.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*): You may be right.

Mr. T. P. Poullose (*Kanayannur*): And Government did not execute one of the important works provided for in the budget and still this year they provided only Rs. 41,500. This is indeed not a change for the better. If at all there is any increase, it is only under the major irrigation works coming under the Minister's portfolio.

Mr. President: But the original works of last year include Rs. 50,000 for the Kampalathara Eri Scheme.

Mr. T. P. Poullose (*Kanayannur*): But there is this fact. There is no use of spending paltry amounts on minor irrigation

schemes. Some minor works will be carried out by the Minister's Department. The P. W. D. also will carry out some minor works. There are some major schemes to be carried out which will be of maximum utility to the people of Cochin.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): The minor irrigation works are intended to meet the local needs.

Mr. T. P. Poullose (*Kanayannur*): I am not finding fault with the minor irrigation works for which you have made provision. There are a few major schemes in the State which have to be carried out. What I am stating is that the allotment of Rs. 41,500 is not sufficient to take up these schemes. I see some items such as the construction of a well here, a tank there and such other things included.

Mr. President: There are really many major works there which you are not appreciating.

Mr. T. P. Poullose (*Kanayannur*): When I said well, what I really meant was, these are minor works to meet local needs apart from the major schemes.

Mr. President: There is one major scheme for which a sum of Rs. 11,500 has been provided. That is for the putting up of a bund to benefit a small country.

Mr. T. P. Poullose (*Kanayannur*): In fact I thought, when the Government thought it fit to transfer Rs. 8 and odd lakhs to the revenue reserve fund in 1115, Government should have provided at least two or three lakhs of rupees from that fund for major irrigation works. In 1116 Government contributed about Rs. 2 lakhs and odd for putting up educational buildings and for providing additional accommodation in hospitals. For the coming year Government are not spending any pie on these items. When Government were able to make a contribution of 8 lakhs and odd from the 1115 surplus, Government could very well have appropriated about two or three lakhs of rupees for major irrigation works which would have been very useful to the people of Cochin. Government ought to congratulate themselves on the very happy position which they occupy with regard to their financial position. Apart from the amount the Government get from direct source Government have got a highly productive source of income from other works such as Harbour, Railway and such other things compared to other Governments. Still what do the Government do with regard to the nation-building departments? It is gratifying to note that it is spending a large amount of money on education. But they have left out of account the major question of irrigation. I hope and trust that the attention

of the Government will be directed in a greater measure to the irrigation projects in future at least.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Chittur-Tattamangalam*): Sir, I have great pleasure in having found my way to congratulate the Government and to offer sincere thanks for the immediate and timely help rendered to the victims of the cyclone. Thanks are also due to the Government for the proposed agricultural loans and remissions of land revenue in deserving cases and also in the matter of educational concessions to children of the unfortunate people affected by the calamity. I also congratulate the Government on having decided to allow pension to the low-paid officials in the subordinate ranks of the Revenue Department. The provision for mid-day meals to poor students, though meagre, is a welcome feature of the budget and a step in the right direction. All these speak volumes of the spirit of sympathy and the sense of fairness and justice and the readiness of the Government to respond to the needs of the people and that is as it should be.

But, Sir, when speaking of the responsiveness of the Government, let us examine how far the Government are alive to popular needs and aspirations of the people as reflected in the deliberations of this House. The considered view of this House as reflected in the Bills, Resolutions and Cut Motions is often neglected and flouted by the Government. This House is treated with scant courtsey often. Many of the Resolutions of this House are not acted upon by the Government. The Bill to repeal the Press Act and the Payment of Salaries Bill to mention only two instances, both of which were passed with thumping majorities in this House, I may even say almost unanimously in this House, have been consistently pigeon-holed. The resolution on the introduction of responsible government or at least a transfer of some more departments to popular control has also met the same fate. Very often this House is ignored and at times I am sorry I have to say this House is insulted. On important matters like the transfer of treasury work to the Central Bank of India this House is not taken into confidence. Nowadays the tendency of the Government is to surprise the House with *fait accompli*—with matters already decided upon. In answer to a question put by Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar the Government refused to place the agreement with the Central Bank of India on the Council Table. The Kerala Kala Mandalam was taken over without placing the matter before the Education Advisory Committee, without even giving a hint to the Council. Yesterday, during question hour, it came out that the institution was taken over by the Government with a view to the better management of the same and

at the same time it was pointed out that the fate of the institution depends upon the sweet will and pleasure of this House. If the vote of the House goes against the proposal the idea of the Government seems to be to give the Kala Mandalam a decent burial—a consummation which, it would appear, the Government think will increase the efficiency and usefulness of the constitution. It would be interesting to know whether this aspect of the matter was made known to Poet Vallathol when Government assumed management of the institution. The rules framed by the Government under section 9 of the Constitution Act is said to be confidential—rules which apply to the activities of our popular Minister also. These instances give a fair picture of how our Government respond to popular opinion. This ignoring of this House in important matters, this gross infringement of the rights of the Council is not or should not be the way of any civilized Government worth the name.

Coming to the budget proper, in your speech, Sir, the other day you referred to the rigid supervision and control exercised by the Government over expenditure in all departments in activity. I readily admit that in some departments especially the nation-building departments it is so. But from the way in which money is allowed to run like water in some departments I make bold to say without fear of contradiction that the statement does not lie in the mouth of the Government—the statement that the Government exercise rigid control, etc. Government pleading want of funds when we members want a dispensary here or a school there, or when my friend Mr. Peter cries for protective measures against sea erosion, and the same benevolent Government makes money run like water in building palaces and spending colossal amounts annually in maintaining them in good repair, when the Government which habitually exercise rigid control over expenditure pay Rs. 500 honorarium to a stranger like Mr. Chitale for supervising works in the Tullocks Gardens, Madras, and pay T. A. to a 1st Class Officer of the Government for travelling all the way to New Delhi and back to supervise P. C. R. works in the Cochin House, New Delhi, forgetting all the while that Madras is on the way to New Delhi, I ask you, does the statement lie in the mouth of the Government? For 1117 there is provision for more than a lakh of rupees for building and maintaining palaces and the gardens attached thereto. Why so in such lean years?

Coming to the services, I am sorry I have to say that our administration is top-heavy. While we find the Heads of Departments draw very huge salaries, salaries unconscionably huge from the point of view of the resources of the State and the spirit of the times, I say, while we find a few officers drawing such huge salaries and

running about in motor cars, we find the Government servants in the lower ranks of the services who form the vertebrae constituting the backbone of the administrative body, the underdogs are drawing pitifully low salaries and lead miserable lives. Sir, it is high time this disparity is done away with. It has got a demoralising effect on the services. I appeal to the Government at least to allow these poor men some dearness allowance during the course of the war. The lesser people in Government employment naturally develop itching palms when they find they can't make both ends meet with their pay alone. Sir, in the clerical staff of the Judicial department especially and the watchmen and maistries of the irrigation departments, the itching palm is quite a common phenomenon. In the very temple of law, in the very place where justice is enshrined, we find corruption. I challenge the Government to deny what I say. Sir, the poor devils are not to blame.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty (*Ezhuvas-Trichur*): Do you mean the whole judiciary?

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Chittur-Tattamangalam*): I mean the clerks.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty (*Ezhuvas-Trichur*): When you used the term "temple of law" I thought that it conveys something else affecting the judiciary.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Chittur-Tattamangalam*): I mean only the clerical staff.

They can't be expected to lead honest lives on the pittance they receive as pay from the Government. You increase their pay and cut down the high pay of the officers. You prune of and level up and the problem is solved. In Japan, I have had occasion to read a book by Jawaharlal Nehru that the highest paid officer is only paid something like say, Rs. 500 whereas the lowest paid servants of the Government receive nothing less than say Rs. 35. Sir, my submission is that it is high time to rationalise the scales of pay to our Government servants. But even granting that that the present scales of pay are based on rational grounds I fail to find any rhyme or reason in the various grades of pay in our services, etc. If the pay of the officers can't be cut down and that of the lower officers can't be raised, at least appoint a committee to go into the question of basing the grades of pay on a rational and understandable basis.

Again, in your speech, Sir, you declared that the policy of the Government is to see that irrigation continues to receive sympathetic and generous consideration at the hands of the Government. Irrigation may have the sympathy of the Government but generosity is a commodity which is felt by its absence. Both in 1115 and 1116

there was provision for Rs. 50,000 for sinking the Kambalathara reservoir and that scheme has been conveniently shelved. I ask you this plain question; does this fit in with the declared policy of the Government, *viz.*, the encouragement of irrigation and agriculture? When other Governments in India and outside are making titanic efforts to make Mother Earth yield more, to make two blades grow where one grew before, here we find such a project shelved, if not finally dropped. I also find a stress on paddy cultivation in the President's speech (p.10). Knowing as we do of the very poor return in paddy cultivation this stress on paddy is as it were somewhat misplaced. It is admitted on all hands that the growing of money crops like sugarcane, cotton, groundnut and tobacco bring a larger return than paddy cultivation. Chittur is the only taluk in the State where such crops are grown in a large scale and so, if the Government is sincere about their profession in the matter of encouraging agriculture in the State, I would ask them to open a pucca Agricultural Demonstration Farm in Chittur Taluk, so that people there may take to improved methods of growing these crops and thus contribute to the prosperity and well-being of the country.

In the matter of industries our State has an unhappy history. The Tanneries and the Potteries, etc., reveal a sad story. Our State is labouring under a sense of frustration and helplessness in this matter of large scale industrialisation. This attitude of inertia won't do. We must get down a man of the type of Sir M. Visweswarayya, give him a decent honorarium, make him stay here for long and make a thorough study of the industrial possibilities of the State and frame proposals to be placed before the Government for scrutiny. Before that a geological and minerological survey may be quite essential and helpful.

Where is the money for all this? That is the question commonly asked when such constructive suggestions are made to the Government. Sir, where there is a will, there is a way! Government must boldly tap all sources of revenue. Government should make the rich pay and let for the poor. Government should levy supertax and excess profits tax and also sales tax, if necessary. Land revenue should be raised by taxing agricultural income on the income-tax basis. I have indicated only a few lines on which Government may raise taxes without imposing hardship and giving cause for complaint to the people in general.

Sir, the conditions in our jails are far from satisfactory. I have it on the most reliable authority that the accommodation in Viyyur is inadequate, water for bathing and other purposes is scarce, and that there is no provision for special treatment of juvenile offenders. The diet supplied to the prisoners is deficient in some vital

elements as evidenced by the prevalence of eye disease which, reports say, is common among inmates, of this jail. I am informed that flogging is the common punishment for minor non-observance of jail rules. Sir, this practice is inhuman and I am surprised and pained to know that our Government which claims to be a civilised Government allows such brutal punishments in our jails and thus betray a total lack of knowledge of the A. B. C. of Penology. I would like to dwell at large on the treatment meted out to political prisoners, but since the time at our disposal is short and since there are cut motions on the same subject coming in for discussion, I feel I won't be justified in expatiating on the question. Anyhow the problem is an important one and is one which deserves radical treatment and that immediately. So the Government will do well to constitute a committee to go into the question of Jail Reform to make a thorough study of the problem and frame proposals before the Government.

Sir, one word and I am done. These remarks are offered in a constructive spirit and Government should always bear in mind that it is far from our aim to attempt to discredit the Government and that the fair name of this dear little State of ours is valued, as much by us, if not more, as by Hon'ble Members on the Treasury Benches.

Mr. M. L. Joseph (*Latin Christians-Cranganur*): Mr. President, Sir, while I agree with the Hon'ble President's remark that our budget is not spectacular, I do not agree with his remark that it is based on principles of conservative finance. While in the matter of allocating funds for certain necessary items Government have been hesitating, I find certain items of continuing loss have been provided—I mean the coir depot and the tincture manufacture. For these Government have very liberally and even carelessly provided. The coir depot, I should say, serves for us no purpose excepting that it is a means to feed a few employees while the tincture manufacture serves the purpose of satisfying the fad of some scientist in the College.

Sir, coming from a communal constituency as I do, I think, I will be failing in my duty if I do not voice forth the needs of my community. While adequate representation of the various communities in public service has been the bone of contention and disquietitude for several years, a happy solution was found in the effective recognition of the principle of communal representation which has practically removed a good deal of discontentment against the Government. While it is difficult to define the scope and ambit of the application of this principle, the broad principle remains that in the matter of appointments, promotions and encouragement communal justice should be meted out in a

satisfactory degree. It is a matter of surprise and disappointment for me to learn that officers of certain communities who would have been in much better cadre now, if principle of communal justice was adhered to in the matter of promotion, endlessly suffer by being confined to certain departments without the least encouragement. I cannot for a moment believe that a Government which has its reputation for impartiality will reserve its encouragements like the revision of salary to certain officers or departmental heads ignoring the claims of others who deserve the same treatment for more legitimate reasons. I leave it to the good sense of the Government to jealously safeguard its reputation for equal treatment. Some try to explain the anomaly by various misnomers like efficiency, capacity and a host of such expressions, and it is no wonder that there are a sort of apparently well meaning people who find a veritable chance to hide their real motive in clamouring for the abolition of the Staff Selection Board by recommending efficiency and capacity as eternal guides to make recruitments to the public service. But, unfortunately, for them, they forget the plain fact that not even the biggest scientist of the world has not yet been able to find out a devise to measure the so-called efficiency and capacity in human beings. Let me give a warning to these pretended idealists that their platitudes will be of no avail to hoodwink the various non-caste communities of the State to believe that efficiency test is really meant to protect their legitimate claims and aspirations as citizens of Cochin. We would not only demand the perpetuation of the Staff Selection Board, but would in addition demand that recruitments to the higher grades of services must also be made by the Staff Selection Board in the proportion in which the various communities are distributed in the State, nay more if justice is to be meted out. Substantial communal justice can be meted out only if recruitments from over-represented communities are temporarily suspended until all unrepresented or inadequately represented communities are given their legitimate share in the public service. As our former Diwan rightly remarked: "The communal problem is neither a religious problem nor even a minority problem and it is no use to brush aside this great problem with the contemptuous observation that the problem is created by a few job hunters". It is therefore the most vital problem that has to be satisfactorily solved before peace, tranquility and communal harmony can be achieved by any Government. Even administrative reforms of any considerable magnitude will be impossible in a country where there is no communal harmony. It is not the birthright of a few communities alone to share in the revenues of the Government distributed every year in the shape of salaries,

Speaking of the claims of the inadequately represented communities I am reminded of the sad plight of my own community, I mean the Cochin State Latin Christian community, whose very existence seems to have been ignored by the Government for the past so many years in the matter of recruitments to posts carrying a salary of Rs. 100 and above. While this community comprises well nigh a lakh and a half souls with a comparatively high percentage of literacy both in English and in Vernacular, it has only 7 officers to boast of who draw salaries ranging between Rs. 100 and Rs. 400 out of a total of 320 or 325 officers drawing salaries ranging from Rs. 100 to Rs. 1,000. Thus while a sum of about Rs. 60,000 is being distributed every month by way of salary this community gets only a paltry sum of Rs. 1,415, which is negligibly small when compared to what is shared by other communities and falls far short of our legitimate share of 7 or 8 thousand rupees. We have on several occasions pointed out this supremely inadequate representation that has been our lot in public service. But our cry has all these years been a cry in the wilderness. It is our fervent hope that at least under the just and benign rule of the present Maharaja this long-standing communal grievance will be removed to the satisfaction and contentment of all alike.

There is one other small point also, Sir, which came to my notice yesterday and to which, I think, I should make a reference here. Of course, while I appreciate the remark of the Hon'ble President that "the necessity of bringing all available areas within the State under paddy cultivation, which alone can free us from our dependence upon foreign sources for our staple food, rice, for a large portion of the year, cannot be over-emphasised", I was surprised to hear yesterday that the Hon'ble Minister is now making plans to acquire a few acres of paddy fields for converting them into a Depressed Class colony (*Laughter*). Last year, it was the Hon'ble Minister's scheme to manufacture towns out of villages and now we have been told that he has temporarily suspended that scheme. It seems now that he has diverted his attention in other directions. I am afraid of this system of converting paddy fields in Cochin into Depressed Class colonies. I therefore request the Hon'ble Minister and also the Government that if colonies for depressed classes have to be created they have to be created only from parambas and not from paddy fields. While we have hardly sufficient rice to support for 4 or 5 months a year, I submit the wisdom underlying this policy of converting paddy fields into depressed class colonies by the hon'ble Minister is a thing which is beyond my comprehension.

Mr. K. Ashtamurthi Nambudiripad (*Land-holders*): Mr. President, Sir, as so many hon'ble members who preceded me have already dealt with in detail about the various aspects of this year's budget, I do not wish to add anything more. But I wish to speak only about one important characteristic feature which we see in this year's budget. Though this year's budget is not a spectacular one, as the Hon'ble the President himself points out, one cannot but be struck by the fact that it was prepared mainly with a view to benefit the agricultural population of the State, agriculture being the most important occupation among the major part of the population in the State.

The most important thing to be done for improving agriculture not only in our State but also elsewhere is to have sufficient irrigation facilities. The bane of modern agriculture in many parts of our State has been the loss of crops due to the vagaries of the monsoon. I am very glad to note that the Government has at last realised this and has made at least a beginning this year with a modest sum of Rs. 41,500 in the Public Works Department and another Rs. 38,000 under Panchayats. In this connection, it will not be out of place to point out to the Government that irrigation schemes for the *kole* lands of Trichur and Mukundapuram Taluks will also be taken on hand as soon as practicable. I am also very glad to note from the Hon'ble the President's speech that irrigation will continue to receive sympathetic and generous treatment at the hands of the Government and utmost encouragement and all reasonable facilities will be extended to all attempts, individual or collective, in this direction.

Another important thing which I want to bring to the notice of the Government is the urgent necessity for allowing remission of land revenue in areas affected by the recent cyclone and flood havocs. In this connection let me first of all express the deep sense of gratitude the people of Cochin feel towards His Highness our beloved Maharaja for the prompt measures already taken to relieve the distress caused by the cyclone. But further concessions are also necessary by way of land revenue remissions in many areas. In areas where, *kuttadan* paddy is grown, the whole crops have been destroyed this year. In many places, especially on the banks of the Bharatha river and some other *thodus* in the northern Taluks of the State, whole paddy fields have been filled up with sand due to the unprecedented floods this year and the standing crops wholly destroyed. It is extremely gratifying to note that the Government are gathering full and accurate details with regard to the extent of the disaster and that the question of further concession by way of increased grants for agricultural loans and of remissions of land

revenue in regard to the destruction of trees and crops assessed to revenue, will be carefully considered by the Government.

Another matter which I want to speak about today is about the difficulties which the landholders of the State experience in granting joint pattas. I hear many complaints from landholders from various parts of the State that inordinate delay is caused in effecting registration. I can, from my own personal experience, assert that it is far more easily and speedily done in British Malabar than in our own State. Whereas in Malabar the registration is effected within a maximum period of three months, here the time taken is generally more than 6 months, and in many cases, up to one year, the law being the same both here as well as in Malabar. There are also very many instances where it took more than one year. The delay in many cases is due to the apathy of village officers who will not do anything unless they have sufficient inducement to do it something by way of *mamool*. I request the Government and particularly the Diwan Peishkar to note these difficulties and take adequate measures to remedy these evils.

Lastly I wish to add one word as reply to one of the facts mentioned by the Hon'ble Member for Planters in his speech. He referred to the purchasing of the *jenn* rights in the properties by the Government. Almost all the *jennies* in the State will, I hope, be amenable to this course, if they can get a reasonable price for their right. I suppose there is no sanctity attached to the mere possession of landed estates only for the sake of paying land revenue to the Government, at the same time getting practically nothing in return.

Mr. President : I think it is only fair that 45 minutes should be given to the Government members for reply. I can only allow 10 more minutes for the non-official members.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. രാമകൃഷ്ണൻ : സർ, ഈ കൊല്ലത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിനെപ്പറ്റി എന്തെങ്കിലും പറയുന്നതിനുമുമ്പായി ഈ സ്മാനലബ്ബ്യിൽ ഞാൻ അങ്ങയെ അനുസ്മരിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ബഡ്ജറ്റിനെപ്പറ്റി പൊതുവേയും തത്പരമായും പല ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെമ്പർമാരും ഇവിടെ വിമർശിച്ചു കഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നതിനാൽ ഞാൻ അപ്രകാരം ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു മുതിർന്നില്ല. ചിറുർ താലൂക്കിലെ ഈഴവ പ്രതിനിധി എന്ന നിലയിൽ വീക്ഷിക്കുന്നതായാൽ ആശാവഹമായ ഒന്നാണ് ഈ കൊല്ലത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റു എന്നു പറയുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ തലസ്ഥാന നഗരീയിൽ നിന്നും അതി പ്രധാനങ്ങളായ മറ്റു പട്ടണങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും വളരെ ദൂരെയായി ബ്രിട്ടീഷിന്ത്യയാൽ ചുറ്റപ്പെട്ടുകിടക്കുന്നതിനാൽ ഒരു പക്ഷെ ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധ വേണ്ടപോലെ ഞങ്ങളിൽ പതിയാത്തതിൽ ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെന്റിനെ കുറ്റപ്പെടുത്തുന്നില്ല. എന്നാൽ ഭൂനികുതിയായിമാത്രം അവിടെനിന്നും മൂന്നു ലക്ഷം ഉ

രൂപികയോളം പിരിച്ചെടുക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള പരമാർത്ഥം ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് ദയവായി കാണുന്നതു് നന്നായിരിക്കും.

ഇങ്ങിനെ താരതമ്യേന ഏറ്റവും കൂടുതൽ നികുതിഭാരം ചുമക്കുന്ന ഞങ്ങൾക്കു കൃഷിയാവശ്യത്തിനായി തക്കസമയങ്ങളിൽ വേണ്ടിവരുന്ന വെള്ളം കിട്ടാതെ പലപ്പോഴും വിളവു മുരങ്ങിയും നശിച്ചും സാധു കൃഷിക്കാർക്കു നഷ്ടങ്ങൾ സംഭവിക്കുന്നതു് സാധാരണയാണു്. ഇങ്ങിനെ സംഭവിക്കാതിരിക്കാൻവേണ്ടിയുള്ള പദ്ധതികൾക്കായി യാതൊരു തുകയും നീക്കിവെച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ കാണാത്തതിനാൽ ഞാൻ വ്യസനിക്കുന്നു.

ഞങ്ങളുടെ നാട്ടിലെ ഒരു പ്രധാന ഉല്പന്നമായ നിലക്കടലക്ഷു വില വളരെ ശോചനീയമായവിധത്തിൽ ഇടിഞ്ഞുപോയിരിക്കുന്നു. നിലക്കടലയ്ക്കു തക്കതായ വില കിട്ടുന്നതിന്നും പുതിയ മാർക്കറ്റുകൾ കണ്ടുപിടിക്കുന്നതിന്നും ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിൽനിന്നും നാളിതുവരെ യാതൊന്നും ചെയ്തുകാണുന്നില്ല. ഇതൊരു നിസ്സാര കാര്യമാണെന്നു വിചാരിക്കരുതു്. ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ സത്പര ശ്രദ്ധയെ ഈ വിഷയത്തിലേക്കു ക്ഷണിക്കുന്നതോടുകൂടി ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ അന്വേഷണം നടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഇന്ത്യാഗവണ്മെണ്ടിനോടുകൂടി സഹകരിച്ചു പ്രവൃത്തിച്ചു നിവാരണമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ ഉടനെ കണ്ടുപിടിക്കേണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിനോടഭ്യർത്ഥിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

മധുരക്കള്ളിൽനിന്നും പഞ്ചസാര ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിന്നു പരീക്ഷാർത്ഥമായി കുറെ സംഖ്യ നീക്കിവെച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടല്ലോ. എന്നാൽ ചക്കര വ്യവസായത്തെ ആണു കൂടുതൽ സഹായധനങ്ങൾകൊടുത്തു അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ടതെന്നാണു് എന്റെ വിനീതമായ അഭിപ്രായം. ചിററൂർ താലൂക്കിലെ ഒരു പ്രധാന കുടിൽ വ്യവസായമായ ചക്കര വ്യവസായത്തെ പരിപൂർണ്ണപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിന്നു പര്യാപ്തമായതെല്ലാം പ്രവൃത്തിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നു് ഞാൻ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മന്ത്രി അവർകളെ ഉൽബോധിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മന്ത്രി അവർകൾ ചിററൂർക്കാരനാണെന്നുള്ളതു് ഞങ്ങൾക്കഭിമാനകരംതന്നെ. എന്നാൽ ഇന്നാട്ടിലെ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളിൽ ചിററൂർ താലൂക്കുകാർക്കു കാര്യമായ പങ്കു ലഭിച്ചിട്ടില്ലെന്നു പറയാതെ നിവ്വാഹമില്ല. ഞാൻ പ്രതിനിധീകരിക്കുന്ന സമുദായത്തിന്റെ സ്ഥിതി അതിലും ശോചനീയമത്രെ. ഉദ്യോഗവിതരണകാര്യത്തിൽ ചിററൂർ താലൂക്കിനേയും പ്രത്യേകിച്ചു അവിടത്തെ ഈഴവരേയും വിസ്മരിച്ചുപോകരുതെന്നു് ഞാൻ വീണ്ടും വീണ്ടും അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

രാജ്യഭരണ കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ ബുദ്ധശ്രദ്ധയും പ്രജാക്ഷേമമെകതല്പരനുമായ മഹാരാജാവു് തിരുമനസ്സിലെ സ്ഥാനാരോഹണത്തിൽ എന്റെ സമുദായത്തിന്നുള്ള സീമാതീതമായ സന്തോഷത്തെ ഇവിടെ രേഖപ്പെടുത്തുന്നു. എന്റെ സമുദായം അനുഭവിക്കുന്ന അനവധി അവശതകൾക്കു പരിഹാരം തിരുമനസ്സിലെ ഭരണകാലത്തുണ്ടാകുമെന്നുള്ള ഉത്തമവിശ്വാസത്തോടെ ഞാൻ ഈ ചെറുപ്രസംഗം അവസാനിപ്പിക്കുന്നു.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal (Vadakkancheri): Sir, the budget has been already subjected to an elaborate and exhaustive scrutiny and we had discussion on all its aspects. As the time at our disposal is very short, I do not wish to go through all the aspects that have been dealt with by the previous speakers. I only wish to deal with the budget in a general way—from two standpoints.

Now, so far as it affects the coming year and also the year that is going to elapse, I shall first deal with the budget in its economic relation so far as the conditions of the people are concerned. It is already anticipated that a large population has been suffering under poverty and has been groaning under heavy debts, and certain relief measures passed by the benign Government have certainly gone a great way to give succour to the sufferers.

In this connection, let me also refer to a Bill which was in the interests of both the landlords and the tenants—I mean the Verumpattam Tenants Bill. The Government in its anxiety wanted to protect the interests of the tenants as well as of the *jenmi*. The paramount consideration was to give permanency to the tenants and with that object in view, Government introduced a Bill which went up to the Select Committee stage. Subsequently, we have not heard anything about it. My submission now is that the Government would be pleased to consider that Bill once more and try to see that that Bill or a Bill in its modified form with the paramount object in view is ushered in, in order to give protection to the people who are suffering under acute economic depression. My firm hope is that Government will be pleased to give great support to the people and to relieve the economic strain brought about on account of the long-standing depression, as well as by the present cyclone.

Now, added to this depression, there has been, as characterised by the Finance Member, the singularly devastating cyclone which has almost to a very great extent affected most of the taluks of this State. It is certainly gratifying to note that our benign Government has rendered all possible timely help to the homeless and needy. Government have already granted more than a lakh of rupees for giving shelter for those who have lost their houses. It is also in contemplation to advance a lakh of rupees by way of interest-free loans and another lakh of rupees by way of agricultural loans.

As the Hon'ble Member Mr. T. K. Nayar very rightly pointed out, it is the urgency with which that work is done that will alone be of any great use to the public, because the amount is required at least to make good the harvest and to have the second crop raised after removing the silt. Therefore it is necessary that urgent measures should be taken in this matter. Apart from the official routine and other matters, I know there may be some difficulties, but if the Government wants to push it on as early as possible, it can be done, and I impress upon the Government the urgent necessity of doing it as early as possible. The amounts that are now granted and that are decided to be granted further are certainly a

very great indication that our present Government is always sympathetic to the people and want to support them as far as possible.

One important matter could have been also provided for in the coming budget in order to give further relief to the labouring classes. Some more communication works by the P. W. Department could have been taken which involve more labour and it would have been more useful to the public. Apart from the utility of those communications, I must say, they would have been a sort of great relief to the poor people in those localities. I find no such scheme has been adumbrated with a view to give some sort of relief, except the programme that is usually laid down. In this connection I may say that so far as my constituency is concerned there was a large work which the P. W. Department could have taken up. I mean the road from Trichur to Machad *via* Thani-kudam for which there has always been a cry for a very long time. That programme has already been accepted, but it was temporarily suspended, and the amount allotted for that road-work was proposed to be utilised for some other road because of some difficulty in regard to the water-supply scheme. Since that scheme was not disposed, this work was kept pending. Now it has been stated on the floor of this House that the water-supply scheme has been completely given up, and I remember the Chief Engineer even promised to take up this work as one of the works in the coming year. Now I find that that item has been omitted. Apart from the utility of this work to the people of the locality, it has got this advantage also—the advantage of providing labour. I am sorry that work has not been taken up.

Sir, it is very gratifying to note that the present Government has begun to appreciate the imperative necessity of expanding the agricultural industry of the people and that as an index to that a new policy has been laid down by allotting Rs. 80,000 in the P. W. Department and in the transferred departments. No doubt, it is a small beginning and I am sure that this policy will be continued hereafter by more liberal grants. Of course, there are no major works contemplated by this scheme. I say minor irrigation works are also very necessary and useful. In so far as the Talappalli and Trichur Taluks are concerned these minor irrigation works in the nature of bunds and chiras and the opening of new canals would certainly be a sufficient protection against the failure of crops.

Coming to constitutional reforms, it has been stated and it has been a cry in this House to grant more and more reforms, so that we may have full responsible government. One important thing I have to impress upon the Government is that in order to make the

reforms already granted effective, the pay of the officers of the transferred departments should be made votable, so that the Minister may have more effective control and supervision over these officers, and he may also exact the maximum amount of work from them. So far as their pay, leave allowance, pension and such other things are concerned, these officers should be placed directly under the control and supervision of the Hon'ble Minister and their pay should be made votable by this House. That is a change which ought to have been effected from the very beginning. We find now from experience that some such lacuna has been the reason for very many criticisms that are now being levelled against the Departments. I submit that the whole House, as the Hon'ble Member Mr. Devassy remarked yesterday, will come to the rescue of the Minister if he feels any difficulty that stands in his way in order to implement the reforms more effectively and consistent with the intentions with which they have been granted.

***Mr. A. L. Antony (Irinjalakkuda):** Sir, I have only one thing to place before this House. In view of the recent cyclone and the uprooting of many trees, the tenants find it very difficult to pay their dues to their jemmies. Some cruel and hard minded jemmies have now started the business of evicting the tenants from their tenements. They have begun to serve eviction notices through courts so that if they evict them now they may not have to pay much by way of improvements. I request that Government must make note of this fact and among the ameliorative measures that they are taking the Government should be pleased to issue a Proclamation to the effect that eviction from verumpattam properties which are affected by the cyclone should not be resorted to.

One more point I have to present here. That is with regard to the Shanmukham Canal from which collections are made by Government at rates fixed by them. The Municipality says that the Government have fixed prohibitive rates so that even boats find it difficult to come and land there. When such is the situation, if Municipality is asked to pay about Rs. 70,000 to Government on account of interest on the capital invested, it will be too hard a burden for the Municipality. The Canal, I submit, has been conferred as a great boon when it was constructed.

***മിസ്റ്റർ സി. എൻ. ഇട്ടിരവിനമ്പുതിരിപ്പാട്:** സർ, ബഡ്ജറ്റിനെപ്പറ്റി യൊ പൊതുവെ വല്ല വിമർശനങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ചൊ സംസാരിക്കാൻ ഞാൻ ഒരുങ്ങിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ എനിക്ക് ഒരു ചെറിയ അബദ്ധം പറയുകയുണ്ടായി, അതിനെക്കുറിച്ചു രണ്ടുവാക്കു പറയുവാനുണ്ട്.

***Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.**

അതായത്, ഞാൻ രണ്ടുകൊല്ലങ്ങൾക്കുമുമ്പു ഒരു റേഡിയോ സെറാ വാങ്ങി ചു. അന്ന് അതിനു ന് രൂപ ലൈസൻസുഫീസ്സ് അടയ്ക്കണമെന്നുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. കഴിഞ്ഞ കൊല്ലത്തിൽ അത് ൧൦ രൂപയായി വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു. കൂടാതെ വു അണ സ്റ്റാമ്പൊട്ടിച്ചു ഒരു അപേക്ഷയും കൊടുക്കണം. എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ അതിന്റെ ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നു തോന്നിയതുകൊണ്ട് വെറുതെ ഫീസു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടെന്നു കരുതി ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ട് മജിസ്ട്രേട്ടു കോടതിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നു. അവിടെ എല്ലിച്ചു കൊടുക്കാമെന്നുവെച്ചപ്പോൾ പറയുന്നു, അതുകൊണ്ട് പ്രയോജനമില്ല, വെറുതെ ഇരുന്നാലും ഫീസു കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു. എന്നാൽ വേറെ ആക്കെങ്കിലും വിലക്കാമെന്നുവെച്ചാൽ അതിന്നു നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. വിലക്കാനും നിവൃത്തിയില്ല, വെറുതെ കൈ വശംവെച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കാമെന്നുവെച്ചാൽ അതിനു ഫീസും കൊടുക്കണം. ഇത് എനിക്കുപറ്റിയ ഒരു ബുദ്ധിമാണ്.

അതുപോലെ, പത്തുരൂപ ലൈസൻസുഫീസ്സുചാൽപോൾ അതിനു കൊടുക്കുന്ന അപേക്ഷയിൽ എട്ടണ സ്റ്റാമ്പൊട്ടിക്കുകയും വേണം. ഒരാൾ ൧൦ രൂപ ഫീസ്സു ചുമുവെങ്കിലും വു അണ സ്റ്റാമ്പൊട്ടിച്ചു അപേക്ഷ അയച്ചില്ലെന്നാകാത്തതാൽ ആ പത്തുരൂപ നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടതായും ലൈസൻസിനു വേറെ പത്തു രൂപ അടയ്ക്കണമെന്നു കല്പന ആയിട്ടുള്ളതായും എനിക്കറിയാം. ഇതുപോലെ എന്റെ മരുമകനും അബലം പറിട്ടുണ്ട്.

ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള വിഷമങ്ങളുണ്ടെന്നറിഞ്ഞിരുന്നെങ്കിൽ ഞാൻ റേഡിയോ വാങ്ങിക്കുകയില്ലായിരുന്നു. എന്തായാലും ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ഉപദ്രവങ്ങൾക്കു എന്തെങ്കിലും പരിഹാരമുണ്ടാക്കിയാൽ കൊള്ളാമെന്ന ഒരു അപേക്ഷമാത്രമാണ് എനിക്കിവിടെ ചെയ്യാനുള്ളത്.

Mr. N. V. Subbarayan Chettiyar (Nemmara): Hon'ble President, Sir, in the opening speech by the Hon'ble President it was stated that a sum of Rs. 41,500 has been provided in 1117 budget for irrigation original works and the works are distributed among all the taluks of the State. It is extremely satisfying to note this. But I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Members of this House that a sum of Rs. 50,000 was provided this year under the same head for the construction of the Kambalathara eri in the Chittur Taluk. It is not known, what the Government have done with this allotment. It is also not known at what stage the proposal stands at present. No amount is also found included in the 1117 budget for this work. The whole of the Chittur Taluk mainly depends upon agriculture, and without the irrigation system there is no agriculture in the Chittur Taluk. The proposal for the construction of the Kambalathara eri, is an important work for the successful cultivation in the Chittur Taluk. If the Government do not proceed with the scheme further and complete it at an early date the whole agricultural population of Chittur Taluk will be put to very great difficulty and heavy loss. If the Government have got any doubt or any difficulty about the success of the scheme, I would like to impress upon the Government to constitute a committee for the purpose, if necessary, so that the necessary inquiries may be done in the matter in order

that the Government may get themselves satisfied about the success and benefit of the scheme.

In this connection I would also like to draw the attention of this House to the condition of the Tamil non-Brahmins of the State. Although they lie scattered all over the Cochin State, they form a very large population of more than 50 thousand. By nature they are all extremely loyal, law-abiding and peace loving subjects of His Highness. From the very beginning they began to take up to some profession or other, best suited to their nature. Since all these people lie scattered all over the State and took up various kinds of profession it was extremely impossible for them to have any kind of unity or homogeneity among them. The result was, these people could not develop according to the changing times in point of education, civilization and other essential qualities which are absolutely necessary in the present day world. Although the community can speak of a population of more than 50 thousand in the State, I cannot say that there are more than 50 boys and girls who have at least completed their school final course. Such is the sad plight of the community. I am not going to blame either the community or the Government alone. The community failed to move with the times and also the Government failed to extend their benevolent hands as is done in the case of all other communities. This is mainly due to want of proper and regular representation before the Government. Now the Government have fully and completely understood about the poor and neglected condition of the Tamil non-Brahmins in the State. I would like to impress upon the Government of His Highness the Maharaja the following few points.

As a first step towards the emancipation of this community it is absolutely necessary that at least 10 per cent of them should be educated. Although education is very cheap in the State due to the existence of numerous schools and high schools all over the State, I may assure the Government that the whole community is so poor that the parents find it difficult for them to send their children to schools for want of funds. Therefore, in order to get at least 10 or even 5 per cent of them educated I would request the Government to give all the Tamil non-Brahmin students of the State free education. If the existing rules cannot allow free education I would request the Government to amend the rule in such a manner so that our students may be given full fee concession. Even if this is not possible I would request the Government to give all our students at least half fee concession. To this the Government may say at once that at present half fee concession is given to all the poor Tamil non-Brahmin students of the State. Here I would like to point out

one thing. This half fee concession is given, only if a poverty certificate is produced from the Parvathiam. According to the Parvathiam a poor man means a man who is not even worth a single pie, whereas, according to them a man who possesses 1000 acres of land and another possessing one acre of land are both rich, because both of them pay land tax. One can very well imagine the condition if this rich man possessing one acre of land as his whole wealth. He is denied the poverty certificate because according to the Parvathiam he is a jenmi and a rich man. A very large percentage of the Tamil non-Brahmins come under this class. With this small income it is impossible for them to look to their domestic needs and to send their children to schools. Therefore I request the Government to grant all our students at least half fee concession irrespective of the fact whether they are rich or poor at least for a period of 10 years after which, the question of further extension can be considered, as is done in the case of the Nambudiri students.

Another thing I want to point out is about the service. I have already said that there are only about 50 children in this community who have either completed the school final or taken up any degree. Of these a large majority of them are keeping quiet at home without any job. Although there is the Staff Selection Board and the system of communal rotation of appointment, it is not known why this community is not given adequate representation in service. Anyhow I would request the Government to mete out adequate justice in the matter of making appointments by the Staff Selection Board, so that the long-standing grievances of this community may be redressed. In the matter of making promotions from one grade to another I hope that the claims of this community will also be looked into very leniently and generously so that at least the very few boys and girls who are at present in service may be benefitted as in the case of the other communities in the State.

In conclusion I may say that it is the humble hope of the Tamil non-Brahmin community in the State that under the rule of the present enlightened Maharaja who is very anxious for the uplift of the backward and depressed classes all our grievances will be redressed and we will be elevated to the position which all other civilised communities in the State have attained.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Sir, we have decided—we shall of course have to deal with the various points raised—that the general debate will be wound up by the Finance Member after my speech and the other Members of the Government will answer the cut-motions at the proper time. The House would not take it amiss that they are not answering criticisms now

as the time is limited and rushing through in two or three minutes will not be throwing much light upon the subject.

This year, fortunately, the criticism, so far as my Departments are concerned, is to some extent limited. Serious criticism was offered by one or two hon'ble members who, I am glad to see, are sitting here to hear the reply also. I wish I could say the same of the other gentlemen also who offered criticisms. The first one is the Hon'ble Member for Adur who raised the point that the working of the Agricultural Department is not at all satisfactory and he quoted the opinion that I entertained a few years ago which I am even now willing to say has not been very much modified. I concluded in that report that this Department should either be ended or mended. We have been trying to mend this Department and I believe succeeded to some extent. It has been asked of this Department, what contribution has been made by this Department in relation to the development of agriculture. There is much justness in the criticism, but at the same time I want the House to understand the difficulties facing the solution of these problems. It is a complex problem. The Agricultural Department certainly has done some good work, for example, they have evolved a special strain of paddy which yields 5 to 10 per cent more than the ordinary paddy. That fact even I came to know from a gentleman outside, not connected with the Department. This statement was given to me by no less a person than Mr. A. K. T. K. M. Vasudevan Nambudiripad who had actual experience in the cultivation. If 5 to 10 per cent can be effected by changing the strain of paddy, that is a real contribution, provided our people are made to understand the existence of the specie and the people would take to this cultivation. The difficulties facing are there. In the first place owing to fragmentation of the land-holding the ordinary cultivator is not in a position to raise sufficient capital to purchase these concentrated manures. And even if he is in a position to do so, the question arises whether he has got ample facilities to get this manure locally. The Government tried their level best to start manure depots in the various parts of the State. As I have explained to the House the other day, the difficulty is that even the Panchayats have shown a disinclination to take up this work. I am asking you, gentlemen, if the Panchayats of the State, non-official and independent bodies, are not willing to undertake works of this kind, how is it possible to bring the benefits of this Department to the doors of the tenants and landholders living in rural areas?

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): Have a propaganda department?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): That is one difficulty we are facing. The second is the financial difficulty of the majority of the cultivating tenants to make use of the scientific manures or the up-to-date knowledge derived from the Department and the third is the general disinclination of our people to undertake this work. So, though there may be faults on the part of the Department, a just apportionment of the blame would involve a portion to be given to our people also. This is the real situation. I do not wish to say anything more on this subject. I am giving a general answer to the just and reasonable criticism raised by the leader of the Progressive Party and I believe we will have opportunities to discuss it in detail when we come to the Agricultural Department.

Mr. T. K. Nayar raised a number of points and he asked one question and a very pertinent question, why do you want to spend Rs. 1,000 upon making indifferent kind of soaps. I readily admit that the soap is of a very poor kind and it is not even toilet soap. The object of this is to teach the people to make the low variety of soap and to give the materials necessary for the manufacture of these soaps in rural areas. This is used for washing purposes mainly and it was found out from experience that the price of this kind of soap is certainly 30 to 50 per cent less than the soap that they purchase from the market. The sum of Rs. 1,000 is intended to purchase materials like caustic soda for distribution to the rural areas. Therefore it is unfair to compare this soap manufacture to up-to-date excellent soaps produced at the Kerala Soap Factory at Calicut.

Mr. T. P. Poulse (*Kanayannur*): Distribution to whom?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): The amount is spent for the purchase of materials and they are distributed in rural areas at cost price. Otherwise they may not be able to get caustic soda. Two people are employed to go about and help them in making these and to popularise this kind of thing. Rs. 1,000 spent on this account is certainly not a waste when we consider the aspect that I have presented to the House. Otherwise it is a folly to endeavour to manufacture soaps when we have got a multiplicity of soap manufacturing centres in the State.

With regard to the shark liver oil, some investigations have been made. The difficulty arises whether we would get ample supply of this oil. The Travancore Government have started this industry on a very large scale and on a better footing. It is started in Calicut also. Now, the oil purified and produced at Calicut is as good as the oil imported from European countries and absolutely fit for human consumption. Most probably here, the only attractive

feature of the industry is, if by any chance we get sufficient raw materials, this can be manufactured without much cost and in a condition fit for human consumption, and we will be able to replace the Cod liver oil with this kind of oil. The price of cod liver oil has gone up from Rs. 7 to Rs. 18. It has gone up very high. Therefore, there will be a market on a limited scale in the State itself. This question is engaging our attention and we will consider whether any useful purpose will be served by undertaking this work.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): Has the Hon'ble Minister any idea of the amount of sharks that we have got?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): The sal fish is in any way better than sharks. The oils are different.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): I am only asking about the quantity of sharks that we have got.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): There is the difficulty of other people paying a higher price. The quantity of fish that we can catch has also to be considered. It requires some further detailed knowledge which I am unfortunately not in a position to give now to this House.

Another point raised by Mr. Bhaskara Menon is with regard to the manufacture of sugar. I perfectly agree that the criticism has much weight that it was not the intention to start it on a large scale. A large number of people from Narakkal and other places came and waited on deputation and pressed us to start this saying that a good quantity of toddy could be made use of for this purpose. Therefore, the Director also recommended that it will be worth while to undertake this work and I am satisfied that the sugar manufactured is really very good. It can be used for all purposes.

Mr. K. Ayyappan (*Ezhuvas-Kanayannur*): Will the amount be sufficient for this purpose?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): On a cottage industry scale.

Mr. K. Ayyappan (*Ezhuvas Kanayannur*): It will be a failure. It was tried in this State.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): That is a technical matter. What I am going to say is in the light of that criticism this question will be reconsidered. Unless there is some scope and if there is a surplus of sugar already in India I think it will be a folly to pursue on this line. But because it is included in the budget, it is not absolutely necessary that it

should be spent on that alone. That question will be taken into consideration before launching into this scheme.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): For what purpose is that Rs. 2,000 intended?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): For purchasing and collecting toddy, utensils, etc.

Criticisms have been raised about the Industrial Department with regard to the Tanneries and the Potteries. I want the House to realise that the Industries and Commerce Departments are divided into 2 sections. Those two Departments do not come under me. One is reserved. With regard to the Pottery in Chalakkudi, the tannery and one or two schools, they do not come under the Transferred Departments. I have held the view and I have expressed it to the late Diwan and I even now hold that it will be to the interest of the Department that it should either be in the Transferred Department or in the Reserve Department instead of having these two divisions which give a lot of trouble. Therefore, when you ask a question, sometimes it is very difficult to give a proper answer, because I myself do not know these things. A point is raised, why is it that a good quantity of the jars manufactured which are superior to the jars sold in South Indian markets, why is it that there is an accumulation of these goods. There must be a reason for it. If the goods are good and if the price compared favourably, why is it that there is difficulty of disposing of these jars, it is a question which unfortunately I am not in a position to answer.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): But cannot the Reserved Department answer that question?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Yes, they will answer.

I want to make only one observation with regard to the Panchayats. As you have noticed, it is the intention of the Government gradually but steadily to hand over all the powers to the Panchayats. Already orders have been issued that all the works should be handed over to the Panchayats either to be done departmentally by them or to be given out after calling tenders by the Panchayat. I can assure the House that in certain Panchayats the experiment has been more than justified by the quantity of work turned out. There may be complaints in one or two Panchayats. But generally speaking, the experiment is a success so much so, this order is issued as a general order covering the whole Panchayat area of the State.

With regard to the rural reconstruction, I hope I have said during the first year that my idea of the rural reconstruction is for

enabling the peasant and the tenant to utilise the land in a proper manner and afford necessary facilities for cultivation, especially water conveniences. I have never made any secret that there is not any other method of rural re-construction in an agricultural area. If this manufacturing of towns, as our witty friend Mr. Joseph puts it, is undertaken, it is undertaken by one who has devoted all his life to the study of rural re-construction, I refer to Mr. Jesudas. In matters of this kind I am not foolish enough to rush in and do experiments on my own responsibility. This question has been discussed many a time and in consultation with the various Heads of Departments. This scheme was drawn up by them and not by a foolish Minister in his neurotic hysterical manner. There is a belief that this was an after-thought—this irrigation business. I may say for the information of the House that this question, that a substantial portion should be devoted to irrigation, was decided 4 months ago. Therefore, if there is any credit, the credit goes to the Heads of Departments themselves who advised me that a substantial portion of the amount should be devoted to irrigation. The reason why we have not taken any more towns for rural reconstruction is that we want to watch the growth and progress of this undertaking and if it is found to be a failure there is no harm in confessing that the attempt was a failure and therefore we do not want to take it up. Therefore, two different types have been taken, Village unit and Panchayat unit, and experimented. So far as the Village is concerned, I have not the least doubt that it will be a successful institution, because there is no grant ambition except to make it a social unit where village activities are concentrated.

There is another point raised by Mr. Joseph, converting of paddy fields into depressed classes colonies. I am asking, were there not cases in Ernakulam where paddy fields were converted by rich people for residential quarters. Was there any complaint?

Mr. M. L. Joseph (*Latin Christians-Cranganur*): Private persons may do many things like that.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): A person who has got money cannot be permitted to do anything he likes. Suppose a rich man comes and he purchases everything and he converts things as he pleases. Government must step in and say it is against national interest and he should be prevented from doing things like that. Where am I to give house sites to the backward and depressed classes unless it be by taking some paddy fields which are not of good yielding ones. House sites have to be provided for 40 families. Is it such a great sin?

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): Where is it?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): It is near the Railway line. You are saying that the paddy fields are all converted into colonies. You cannot have both ways. You cannot create sympathy for the poor people in this House and when the Government undertake to do something in the face of the opposition of the well-to-do and rich classes of the State, you cannot come and say that we are converting the paddy fields into house quarters. I was very much pained to hear the complaint that the paddy fields are being converted from house sites for the poor depressed classes. I have explained yesterday to this House that with regard to the urban population colonisation system is successful, though it is not very successful in rural areas. There was no intention in my mind to reduce the output of paddy in the State.

Now, hon'ble members, there are various other things. But if I go on like this it will be playing Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark coming on the stage. He is sitting here next to me. I shall invite him to conclude and wind up the debate.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): Hon'ble Mr. President, at this fag end of the day I do not propose to take too much time of the House. To start with, there is one small point that I have to mention. The Hon'ble Member Mr. Panicker was referring to a temporary loan of Rs. 5 lakhs which the Government took last year from the Central Bank for a short period. I am sure that *prima facie* it should have struck rather strange to several of the members that with so much of surplus revenue Government should have resorted to this temporary loan. I may explain that this has been a very profitable arrangement to the Government and that in this way. Our revenues come mostly either during the very end of the year or somewhere early or in the first few months of the year. The major items of expenditure start from the months of Meenam onwards. So that if we should keep all the cash that we require for the months starting from Meenam onwards, then that means that from the very start we should reserve a very large amount in the current account of the Central Bank without getting any adequate return. If on the other hand we invest, to start with, a fairly large portion of it in fixed deposit and then for two or three months if we find ourselves short of funds, say in Meenam, Medam and also probably till the middle of Edavam by which time the second half-yearly earning of the Railway will be coming in, it is much more profitable to arrange for a temporary loan of Rs. 5 or 10 lakhs. It was under that policy that this was made. This was premeditated and when we made the recommendation for larger investments at the beginning of the year, we knew that probably in

Meenam or Medam we might have to resort to a temporary loan and even with that we would be only gainers. Therefore, it is not a haphazard method of dealing with State finances that we have been following, rather it has been very systematic. As a matter of fact, we have been extra-careful to find and to see that every pie possible is put in fixed deposit. For example, during the course of the year sometimes in Vrischigam or Dhanu, a fixed deposit of Rs. 6 lakhs or 10 lakhs might mature. The State might want funds somewhere in Edavam or Mithunam. So, we invest it straight-away up to Edavam or Mithunam when we get the customs revenue and then try to recoup it to the current account and thereby we get a clear gain of surplus of quite a substantial amount on Rs. 6 lakhs for 6 months. In that way we have been trying to conserve our finances to a very great extent and it is with extreme vigilance that we have been watching our investments.

The hon'ble member Mr. T. K. Nayar was referring to the paucity of funds for irrigation schemes. I do not believe that such a criticism would be valid now, because at the beginning of the next year we would easily have over 12 lakhs of rupees under our Revenue Reserve Fund. Revenue Reserve Fund is not ear-marked for any particular purpose and Government can divert it to any useful capital or other expenditure of the kind that we want. And only if we have irrigation schemes which will commend themselves on their own intrinsic merits, if we have such schemes, paucity of funds will not stand in the way.

Mr. K. Ayyappan (*Ezhuvas-Kanayannur*): Government should launch upon the scheme. That was the point.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): If there is a scheme it should have intrinsic merits. There was an idea of Kambalathara Eri in Chittur Taluk. The first investigation showed that it was alright. The second investigation showed that it is not so hopeful, and investigations are still continuing on that project. Therefore we cannot, so to say, manufacture irrigation schemes.

Mr. T. P. Poullose (*Kanayannur*): At any rate, you have no complaint that you are lacking in funds.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): The point is that there should be a regular programme of irrigation schemes.

Mr. K. Ayyappan (*Ezhuvas-Kanayannur*): You should not try to manufacture schemes. You should think of schemes.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): I don't say there are no schemes. If there are schemes

that are intrinsically good on their own merits, the question of funds need not stand in the way. Probably, the Hon'ble Members did not remember this point that there is now the Revenue Reserve Fund of Rs. 12 lakhs.

Mr. T. P. Poullose (*Kanayannur*): I clearly said that there is a Revenue Reserve Fund from which the Government could draw in the year 1117.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): A portion of the surplus can also be transferred to irrigation Fund if a separate fund is necessary for irrigation. We have already built up a substantial sum under Revenue Reserve Fund and it is our hope to add on to it. You call it by whatever name you like. There is the money there which is something like a reserve from which we can draw on for any useful purposes.

Mr. K. Ayyappan (*Ezhuvas-Kanayannur*): Perhaps this is the position of the Finance Member. He finds any amount of money. Let the other members find out schemes.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): You stated in the course of your speech that there was one scheme of which the first report said that it was a successful scheme. Why should there be a second report?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): It was hopeful at first sight. *Prima facie* 15 or 20 thousand was provided. That does not mean that it was ultimately approved.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): May I know when Mr. Ramachandra Ayyar's Irrigation Act was passed?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): I do not remember. Then coming to the connected question of rice and stock of rice in the market and the tendency for prices to improve, the Land Revenue Department from the very inception of the War has been receiving directly very reliable reports from Mattancherri as to the shipping and as to the imports of rice and they are even now completely confident that there is enough and more of stock in the country to meet any emergency. The question is being continuously watched also. There need be no question on that. As for the control of prices I may tell there is a committee which is to look into the subject. That takes us again to the question of war and I do not find any of the hon'ble members referring to the question or the need for a very cautious and prudent financial policy at this time of the crisis. I am speaking very seriously when I say this. For example take the case of the cyclone. One cyclone

cost us two lakhs of rupees already and there are proposals before the Government costing 10 or 12 lakhs of rupees. If that be the case and if emergencies arise would it be too much to say that there must be a substantial surplus, cash that could be easily handled that could be drawn today or tomorrow as and when we like.

Mr. K. Ayyappan (*Ezhuvas-Kanayannur*): Then there is paucity of funds.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): When we look at it in that way we cannot say that our fluid resources are anything abnormally high. When great powers are hankering for cash, for a small State like this to carry on without actual cash is really hard.

Coming to electricity we have got new arrangements to get very cheap electric power both at the boundary near Adur and also at the boundary here. Therefore we get cheap electric power and that should certainly be a substantial help to all industrial concerns. I am sure that the introduction of cheap electricity throughout the entire length and breadth of land is bound to stimulate industry whether the capital is found inside the State or outside. When there is cheap electric power, when they find that they get power very cheap all capitalists and financiers will find it more to their taste and more to their liking to invest amounts in a place like Cochin rather than elsewhere. That is the experience of the sister State of Travancore and there is no reason why we could not reap the same benefit.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): May I know whether this assurance was not given by Sir Shanmukham when he opened the Chandrie Power House at Trichur? Has there been any material progress?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): That is a thermal station where the cost of production is much higher.

Three lakhs has been provided for this purpose under capital in the next year's budget.

The hon'ble members were just referring to the Potteries. Government are not working the Potteries. As I explained last year, and also this year in my budget speech it has been leased to a private company and they have asked for an extension of the lease and the whole thing is being looked into by a small committee.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): In Travancore it was said that satisfactory arrangements have been made with Cochin.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): I do not deny that. We have also provided 3 lakhs of rupees.

Therefore it should be expected really, as a matter of fact, that the Potteries are working well and it has got a much brighter future than it had before.

Government have also been helping Municipalities whenever they are asking for funds. They have not been niggardly at all as several of the hon'ble members will testify. The Government have been very liberal in granting loans and in extending to them as much help as possible.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): What about the Koovapadam scheme?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): There might have been one or two schemes for which Government might have taken exception.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Chittur-Tattamangalam*): May I know the rate of interest that you allow on Municipal surplus funds?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): Formerly they were getting nothing. Now they are getting one per cent.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Chittur-Tattamangalam*): We are thankful to the Government for raising the rate of interest to one per cent. But do the Government think that it is a generous rate of interest?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): It is really adequate compared to the responsibility that the Government have to keep the funds in the Treasury. It is very liberal.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): For Koovapadam scheme why is loan denied?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): You can refer to this in the cut motions; not at this particular moment.

I only made the statement that Government had been very liberal and many of the members will testify to that.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon (*Chittur-Rural*): Have you given any single pie to any Municipality from the Reserve Fund?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): We have to keep that money idle in the Treasury because any day you will present a Bill up to the total of your assets there. Where is the guarantee that you will not?

Mr. T. P. Poullose (*Kanayannur*): Under the circumstances why is it that you have allowed them one per cent interest?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): The Devaswam Department is not paid. It has got the same position as the Municipalities so far as the lodging of funds in the Treasury is concerned. The Palace Fund is not being paid.

Mr. T. P. Poullose (*Kanayannur*): How is it that you have decided to give them?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): As an encouragement.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (*Cheruthuruthi*): The Municipality wanted to invest it in Banks so that they might get a greater rate of interest. Government said they will give them one per cent interest.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Chittur-Tattamangalam*): May I know why can't the Government allow the Municipalities to invest the Fund standing in their name in Land Mortgage Bank Debentures or in Government loans?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): There are very serious objections. If I begin to dilate it will take much time.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Chittur-Tattamangalam*): My submission is that your attempt to make a point that you have been liberal stands self-condemned.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): The hon'ble member is only thinking of the interest on Deposits. But there are several other obligations. If such a step is taken it will be just like reading an essay.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): When loan was wanted for Koovapadam scheme why was it not granted?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): The merits of that scheme do not allow. That question is under investigation now. It is premature for the member to believe that it will not be sanctioned.

Most of the important points of the hon'ble members we have in a way covered. Ours may not be a very spectacular budget but all the same it is quite a substantial budget and hon'ble members need not in the least be anxious about its substantialness or its stability or its usefulness. It is a stable budget which may be completely relied upon and which says only what is in it.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Chittur-Tattamangalam*): May we hear in general about irrigation?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*): I have got a great deal to say and on account of want of time we might say all we have to say when I present my budget, instead of hurrying through.

Mr. President: We will meet to-morrow at 11 a.m.

The House rose for the day at 5-10 p.m.

C. J. MATHEW

Secretary to the Council